

*The Budget—Mr. Chevrier*

It is the same with revenue. The Minister of Finance had to reduce by \$200 million his estimated revenue for the current financial year. But why?

This revision is due first to the current recession, and then to an erroneous forecast on the part of the Minister of Finance. He made a mistake in his forecast by estimating a \$12,000,000 surplus whereas, in fact, as he himself admitted, there will be a deficit of close to \$300,000,000.

This means that the government, which claims to have done so much to fight unemployment at this time, is not even considering spending a red penny of its budget to straighten out the present economic situation and fight unemployment. There have been no special tax reductions during this fiscal year. The Minister of Finance still refuses to turn to the most important means of easing the economic situation, which are monetary and fiscal policies.

What is, therefore the government's policy? It consists in offering loans. Indeed, the government is specializing in loans; easier loans will be offered individuals towards the purchase of a house or for home improvements, loans are being offered to businesses, and subsidies to provinces for the building of technical schools. Loans will even be offered to universities. Yet, the Conservatives had promised to stop federal aid to education.

The program of the government before this session can then be summed up in three words: loans, more loans, and again more loans.

**Mr. Graftey:** You voted for them.

**Mr. Tremblay:** You voted for taxes, and taxes and taxes.

**Mr. Chevrier:** It is obvious that because of those interruptions, and especially because of the new provisions of the standing orders, I will not be able to say all I would like to in the 30 minutes at my disposal. I will therefore revert to another point of my speech.

(Text):

Mr. Speaker, we had a very remarkable performance on television not long ago by the Prime Minister of this country.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Chevrier:** The Prime Minister delivered himself of quite a colourful oration. Everything was splendid in Canada, so he said; unemployment was not a problem in our country; there is no emergency; there is no recession. He does not even admit the existence of the recession. In any event, nobody

is exercised about the recession in Washington. Instead of getting from the Prime Minister of this country a frank and fair appraisal of the economic situation as we find it and the proposals which the government intends to bring down to deal with it, we are told that everything is in ship-shape condition.

I have here some of these statements whereby the Prime Minister tried to divert attention once again from the subject of unemployment by stating that we had the highest employment ever at the present time in our country. But before I come to that, we had at the beginning of this speech a recital of the tremendous development projects consequent upon the national development policy of the Conservative government from one end of the country to the other. Here is a recitation province by province, region by region of all these projects. I take, for instance, what was said about the province of Quebec, and listen to this:

Well, there 300 miles of railway have been built by private enterprise.

That statement is not accurate. There is only one railway of 360 miles built by private enterprise in the province of Quebec, and that is the Quebec North Shore Railway. It is 360 miles long and was opened on July 31, 1954, long before this government ever came into office. Then we have this statement:

A new Mattagami branch is projected by the C.N.R. And it's worth noting this, that the total new railway construction under way in Canada to promote resource development exceeds that of the rest of North America.

With regard to the new Mattagami railroad, the resolution is on the order paper; it has not even been discussed, but the Prime Minister is blowing about it already. Not one word, however, is said about the 300 or 400 miles of railway built in the province of Quebec by the former administration, the branch lines from Barraute to Kiask falls, from Kiask falls to Beattyville, from Beattyville to Cache lake, from Cache lake to Chibougamau and to St. Felicien, practically 400 miles long. Not one word is said about that. However, I do not blame the Prime Minister for not mentioning it. What I do blame him for is making statements in his speech across the country that are not only inaccurate but untrue. Here is another example:

We're doing something for the ports of Montreal and Quebec and the harbours elsewhere in the province are being expanded to meet the demands of expansion.

The plans and specifications for the development of the port of Montreal were announced long before this government came into office. They were announced by my