

The Budget—Mr. Nowlan

And he identifies four millstones, dead horses, and so forth. Mr. Barkway then says:

This record of wilful blindness is the first of the millstones around Liberal necks.

My hon. friend referred to tariff protectionism and objected to what we were going to do in this amendment—I took him to mean the amendment to “class and kind” in the act. He said that we were going backward in this respect. History always repeats itself when Liberal members speak, because they are playing the same record over and over again. I am reminded of the speeches which hon. members made when you, Mr. Speaker, were in the chair two years ago. They said, when we brought in amendments to the Customs Act—that is, the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate, the Leader of the Opposition and I do not remember whether or not the hon. member for Essex East participated—that we were doing a horrible thing; we were going to raise tariffs as high as Haman’s gallows. It was said that we were going to invade this section and we were going to wreck Canadian trade.

We have not had any of these things happen despite the dismal gloom and doom prophecies of my hon. friend. They indulged in the same prophecies, of course, in connection with the C.B.C. when we brought in that act. We were going to wreck the C.B.C.; we were going to make it a political creature; that is what we were told.

We are getting the same spectre again this afternoon, the threshing of old straw and the repetition that we are going, by some tariff action, to revive the days of Bennett. This is the terrible thing that they hold in front of us all. But a worse thing would be to revive the days of the St. Laurent government; I do not think there is any question about that. I do not think the people of Canada are going to revert to that type of government for a long time to come.

With reference to tariff protectionism, this is what Michael Barkway says:

It is simply unrealistic nowadays to think in the simple theoretical terms of protectionism versus free trade. We might as well debate transubstantiation versus consubstantiation. It is, therefore, distressing to find educated Liberals—

I include my hon. friend very freely in that category:

—reverting to the ancient familiar stereotype like an old friend with whom they feel at home. Their beloved bogey of protectionism is really one of the most puny and least terrifying of the hallowe’en apparitions which prevent us from tackling our real problems in the light of day.

As I said, that is not the statement of a Tory; that is the statement of a friend of the Liberal party who was giving friendly advice, which I regret to see was not accepted,

when he appeared before the Queen’s University convention last fall and suggested to the Liberals how they might rectify the situation, which apparently they failed to do.

I think the only parts of the hon. member’s speech which deserve comment are those matters referring to protectionism and the unemployment problem. The rest was simply making publicity. I am glad to see that he did it and I hope everybody reads that booklet—

Mr. Pickersgill: So do I.

Mr. Nowlan: —because it is authoritative, it is objective and it is factually correct, and I am sure that if we could get it into the hands of every person in Canada, come the next election the hon. gentlemen will find that the decimated ranks which they have today will not be increased. They will find that this government will be returned with a bigger majority than it has at the present time.

I am not going to deal with figures with respect to unemployment, or the moneys to be paid out. I am not going to deal with the 200,000 or thereabouts who are employed in the winter works program and the measures which the Minister of Finance brought down in the budget the other day; the applications which are coming in for the construction of residences for universities; the municipalities writing in with respect to obtaining loans for the construction of sewage disposal plants, or the score of things which are being done by the Dominion of Canada, in co-operation with the provinces, in order to give an impetus to construction. We are giving leadership, we are providing employment, and we are going ahead to build a better Canada than we have ever had before. The Minister of Finance will, I imagine, be dealing with this matter before this debate is over. He can go into the details. I do not intend to transgress in his field. In addition, the Minister of Labour will undoubtedly be dealing with this.

As I said, there have been references to the great convention, the great gathering, the great assembly, one of the greatest television shows we have seen for a long while, and perhaps I can refer to that for a moment or two before I sit down. As I said, it is a strange thing. They talk about new faces. They talk about young blood. It is true there was youth there. We saw the pictures of very fine looking youths in the television cameras. Some of them looked so intelligent that when they are a little older they will undoubtedly join the Conservative party. Hon. members will remember the words which were once used by an English statesman, that there was something wrong