

been here that long, only about four years, but year after year, Budget after Budget, nothing ever seems to happen. In the last four or five years this country has experienced high interest rates, decreased productivity, high unemployment, and almost every economic ill over the last 30 or 40 years. Every time the Budget has come forth they have said it will clarify and solve our problems. However, Budget after Budget things just get worse.

By way of example, let me point to one item, the deficit. The annual deficit is predicted in this Budget to go to over \$30 billion. That figure is so high I really do not understand it. Four years ago I fought an election and my campaign was based on a deficit the Liberal Government had left behind of some \$10 billion. That figure was so high I am sure a lot of people did not understand it and could not appreciate how big it was. It is now three times that much.

We are told again this year the Government is going to reduce the Budget. We have been told that every year, and every year the Budget goes up. When we criticize the size of the Budget, the Government says the United States has a predicted deficit of \$180 billion this year. Our population is only one-tenth of theirs. In relative terms that would mean if they had a deficit in their Budget the size of ours, their deficit would be close to \$300 billion. Therefore you can see how badly off we are in this country.

Canadians are now realizing more and more that no government, business or family can continue year after year to spend annually more than it takes in. At the moment the Government has to borrow a third more—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. May we have order in the House please?

Mr. Dantzer: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. How long can this Government survive? Another area which this document fails to discuss satisfactorily is unemployment. It has been said before and will be said again that in most areas this Budget does nothing. It is discouraging, Mr. Speaker. I am discouraged and I am sure the Canadian public is discouraged. At the moment over 11 per cent of the Canadian labour force is unemployed. In my province of British Columbia that figure rises to over 13 per cent. In my constituency of Okanagan North the rate is almost 18 per cent, and those are only the ones who register. Employment officers there tell me the figure is probably far higher than that and from my travels around my constituency I believe them to be correct.

Another serious aspect of this problem is that many of those unemployed are young people aged 16 to 24. That is the really serious problem. It is very hard and discouraging for a young person, who may just have gotten married, to get out of university and find that he cannot find a job for the first, second, third and fourth month, and still cannot find a job after a year. How long is that very fragile marriage going to last? That is the type of thing we are seeing across the country. A whole generation is going to be lost unless we find jobs for our young people.

The Budget—Mr. Dantzer

Nowhere in this Budget is anything but gloom and doom indicated. The Budget indicates that over the next four years this horrendous figure is expected to remain pretty stable and unemployment will not decrease very much, even though the Budget takes a very optimistic view of the economic conditions which the country will face over the next few years. That optimistic view is not supported by many experts. We are dancing on a very thin line here, Mr. Speaker. I hope that the Minister's predictions in this filed are correct and that the economy does continue to grow and expand.

In January of 1980 the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) was seeking election. He said in Toronto: "We have an economic program for the eighties which will enhance dignity, create opportunity and provide security". After listening to four years of the Government's dismal programs I say those are some programs, some opportunities and some security. We have deficits rising, unemployment rising, and indeed in this last month we have inflation rising. Nothing in the Budget does anything to solve any of these very severe problems.

I could continue to speak about deficits, unemployment, interest rates, lack of consumer demand or the poor productivity in our country which was not addressed in this Budget. These are all essential issues which have been addressed before in this debate and will be addressed again. It is apparent that the Budget has failed to answer any of these difficult problems in the country. However, I wish to spend some of my time tonight talking about some social issues this Budget attempts to address.

The Minister of National Health and Welfare (Miss Bégin) yesterday spoke of pensions. During her address she said she looked upon pensions as the next important issue which we in Canada will have to discuss, address and solve in the area of social affairs. Mr. Speaker, I hope she means by that the next big social issue is the one after the unemployment issue. I believe she made a Freudian slip and really reflected that the Government thinks unemployment is not very important. Certainly the Budget would indicate that. It only allocated an additional \$150 million to solve the problem of unemployment. I think that in her statement she reflected the importance which the Government puts on unemployment.

I will be the first to admit, since I have been deeply involved in the study of pensions over the last four years, that pensions are a very important problem. I would like to remind that Minister and the Government that unemployment is the first key social issue we have to solve. There will be no money for pensions or any social services if we cannot solve the unemployment problem. You cannot split up a pie if there is no pie to split up. The Minister and the Government should recognize that and then go on to the pension issue.

In the Budget the Government did make one small, tentative step toward solving the pension issue which they have debated at length for the last four, five, six or seven years. I would like to be positive. I would like to give the devil his due. These are good steps. They are the beginning of what I hope will be a continuation of policies which will increase and strengthen our pension program.