

*The Budget—Mr. Mongrain*

\$200 million were distributed to the citizens of the province of Quebec. That amount was not given as a lump sum to the government so that it would use it as it thought best. It was distributed to all the Quebec citizens, under the form of pensions or welfare measures of all kinds, the cost of which goes up every year. One will recall that that was precisely the objective of that social development tax. If we have no medicare in the province of Quebec at the present time, it is not the fault of the federal government which is ready to pay half of it. It is the fault of the Quebec government, it could have implemented it last July. Indeed, the government intends to levy a premium in order to implement it. It will therefore not cost the provincial treasury very much. The taxpayers in Quebec will pay the share Quebec should pay.

It is therefore unfair to accuse the federal government without explanation, of fiscal violation, or even of theft. That is irresponsibility! That is criminal demagoguery, when arguments are used that only serve to stir the ill-informed, the naïve souls in Quebec, against the central government which tries to maintain reasonable prosperity in all the provinces.

The province of Quebec is the first to benefit, thanks to equalization payments, and also to the direct or indirect contribution of the Department of National Defence which spends hundreds of millions of dollars in Montreal. If Quebec were to separate, it would no longer benefit from that financial contribution, nor from the subsidies to hospitals, to CEGEPs, and all the other things it accepts without a word.

I cannot deal with everyone of those points for I see my time is almost up. I thank my honourable colleagues for their patience and I conclude by saying again that my own electors are most grateful to the government for having given us the advantage of those special measures, thanks to designated areas and "special areas."

In addition, my electors express their deep gratitude to the federal government for having thought of having a national park in the St. Maurice Valley.

I also ask the government to protect the textile industry, which is a very important one in my area, and to consider that problem as urgent as that of the farmers out west.

Now, I should like to speak with every precaution, because I should not like to show the weakness I have reproached to others.

[Mr. Mongrain.]

Although I am in favour of the \$100 million that will be spent out west, I say the textile industry in Ontario and in Quebec need help.

As for Air Canada, I trust the members of the government will be firm enough to see to it that it does not disappear from the area, at least not before we have alternative service as convenient as the one we already have.

I forgot to say that another service has been added to that of Air Canada which is financed by the federal government, namely a meteorological service which is useful to us in many fields and which we may not be able to keep if Air Canada leaves us.

[English]

**Mr. W. C. Scott (Victoria-Haliburton):** Mr. Speaker, my first reaction to this budget was that the government had missed the boat, if indeed it had any intention of ever trying to catch the boat in the first place. After listening for three days of debate on the budget, I realize that the government has not just missed one boat, but several boats. They have missed so many boats that I am inclined to wonder if they are going in the same direction as the rest of us. I wonder if the government is even remotely interested in going in the same direction that the Canadian people wanted to go. It is obvious that the government is going to continue to go its own way regardless of whether the Canadian people benefit from the exercise.

One thing that comes through loud and clear in this budget is that the government has decided that prosperity is too good for the average person in Canada. In this land of plenty, this land of lush forests, untold mineral resources, great challenge and unlimited opportunity, the Canadian people are given a choice between a demagog or nothing. Even as we debate this budget the government has brought in new legislation which it says will solve the problems of our agricultural industry. It is another smoke-screen. Anyone who takes the trouble to read the bill will see that this is more clear evidence of a demagog under the guise of helping the farmer find markets more readily for his produce. The bill contains provisions for the eventual takeover by the government of the means of production and absolute control over where and how the producer will market his produce.

Today's headlines state that there are 526,000 people unemployed in Canada. While unemployed workmen in the hundreds of thousands and elderly people on fixed incomes cry out for some small measure of