

The Budget—Mr. de Corneille

Is anything going to be done by the Government to see to it that the fall-out from this kind of policy will be looked after? There is no indication from this Budget that any attention has been paid to the problem.

One remembers the poignancy of the image of this woman who is looking toward the future with uncertainty. You can repeat that image and that concern in the faces of people in factories all across this country. Think about the one or two-industry towns. Think about the little companies built over 50 or 100 years; for example, the textile companies in Quebec and Ontario. Think about the people working in the shoe industry or the chocolate industry. Think about all those people in many little plants across the country. They face disaster when our borders are thrown open and the competition arrives from huge American corporations. Those towns will then become ghost towns and the Canada we knew will no longer exist.

Remember the anguish of people like this woman who face prospects like this. Where will she, living in a town in New Brunswick, find a new job? Are we going to stack these people like cordwood, put them on trains and send them to the big cities? Are we going to try to force them to leave their towns and villages of which they have been a part all these years? The Tory idea is that you go to where the jobs are instead of keeping the jobs in various parts of the country. It is a *laissez-faire*, let it go approach.

The Government has done nothing whatsoever in this Budget to give any reassurance to those people across this country about the future of their work and their jobs, and not just the people in manufacturing. One of the areas that will be the most severely hit is agriculture. Today farmers are complaining about family farms being closed down and going into bankruptcy. Think about grain farmers who are in vulnerable positions today. Then think about their vulnerability when this so-called trade agreement comes into effect.

Let us think, for example, of companies which are producing and processing food. What will happen when these 18-wheel trucks come wheeling into Canada with goods from the southern U.S. where there is scab labour and cheap immigrant labour brought in from Mexico? They have climates such as in Georgia where they can raise chickens without any cost for heating. They have the industries to package and process the food. What will happen to our packing and processing industries in Canada? What will happen to the farmers who supply the food for those packaging and processing industries? We know they will go down. They will be crushed. They will disappear. Again, hundreds of thousands of people in this country, including farmers, will be reduced to penury, driven off the land, and those farms, industries and small towns across Canada now servicing the food industry will be destroyed.

In conclusion, I want to point out that the Macdonald Royal Commission, while recommending free trade, insisted that a program had to be in place to anticipate the fall-out, the suffering, the displacement and social costs which will arise. It

had to be part of the package if there was going to be a free trade agreement. It called for a guaranteed annual income. It said you cannot move on these matters until you have first looked after the social needs of the people affected negatively by free trade.

The commission pointed to the fact that the poorest 20 per cent of Canadians receive less than 5 per cent of Canada's total income. We cannot go on in this fashion. There is no planning in this Budget for the tremendous repercussions arising from this trade deal. Tories are not managers. They are interested in special interest groups and allowing rip-off, cream-off, and selling off of our resources, selling off of our future, selling off the back-forty. The Tories do not manage this country, they just let it go.

Mr. Holtmann: Madam Speaker, I listened with interest to the Hon. Member and the fault he found with the Budget this morning. I am absolutely amazed that he did not use this opportunity to tell Canadians what his Party intends to do in the future to make a better Canada.

The Hon. Member criticized the one cent a litre tax on those poor people who have to drive to work. I would like to remind the Hon. Member that there are a lot fewer poor people and a lot more people working since this Government came to power. When his Party was in power we had almost 12 per cent unemployment. Unemployment is down to 8.2 per cent and still dropping. Clearly he cannot argue the fact that this Government has created jobs.

I want to go on to what I think is a very important point of his remarks. He said that since this Government came to power the deficit has increased by \$116 billion. He thinks this is terrible.

Mr. McKenzie: It was started by his Leader.

Mr. Holtmann: Does he not remember that at the rate it was growing in 1984 it would not be \$116 billion today, it would be \$400 billion?

He criticized the Government for not doing more for the poor people and spending more to help them. He suggested that more ought to have been done in many areas. We should have spent more money as his Party did in the past. How does he intend to bring that \$116 billion deficit down to zero and spend more to help all those people that he criticized this Government for not looking after? He referred to people without housing, people still unemployed and on welfare. What does he intend to do? Clearly the last Government could not create jobs, it could only create a big deficit. He is going to do the opposite, so I would like him to tell Canadians how he intends to help these people, where he is going to get the additional revenue not only to keep the deficit from going up but to reduce it, and create all these programs? I think he should tell that to the Canadian people right now.

Mr. de Corneille: Madam Speaker, I appreciate the questions the Hon. Member has raised because they afford me