

spell the greatest wordly, material and even spiritual difficulties.

I still have many things to say but in closing I should like to draw the attention of the Minister of Finance once again to Bill C-328 which the leader of the Social Credit Party of Canada introduced to the House. That bill was brought in to provide emergency measures for dealing with price increases and fighting inflation. I urge all hon. members to read the bill with great care, to reflect upon its purpose; once again they will discover very specific, very modern proposals which, if they were implemented, would do much towards solving the problems we are now discussing in this House.

Mr. Speaker, there is no point in using the same recipes and the same remedies. We have been applying them for a hundred years and we always end up with the same troubles. Let us try something else. We risk nothing in trying something else. If the government, the Minister of Finance, has the courage to introduce a measure along those lines, he will go down into history as one the great Canadians who will have best served his country and helped solve a crucial problem that worries all Canadians. A monument will be built as a token of gratitude, because he will have been the one to put money at the service of mankind, of Canadians.

• (1730)

[English]

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, I was delighted to concur, along with my colleagues on both sides of the House, in providing additional time to the hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Lambert). At least the hon. gentleman was consistent in the views on economic matters that we have heard from his party over the years. While we could not agree with all his theories we can all respect the sincerity with which they are advanced.

On the other hand, as a member of the government listening to the hon. member for York-Simcoe (Mr. Stevens), and the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby (Mr. Broadbent), I found myself thinking of the two sailors who, after a very hard night out, found themselves on church parade next morning. In church they heard a scathing sermon on the Ten Commandments from a very articulate clergyman who went through each of the commandments and denounced those who had offended against them. The sailors were rather sheepish about the whole business and, as they were leaving, one turned to the other and said, "Well, at least we didn't make any graven images!"

After listening to the opposition one begins to wonder if there was anything at all to commend itself in the budget of the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner). I say there was a great deal and I want to repudiate totally some of the comments made about the minister this afternoon, particularly, those which seemed to suggest that he is uncaring on social issues, that he is not aware of the problems of the ordinary people of this country. As a colleague of his for many years I know that quite the contrary is true. Indeed, in shaping this particular budget he has done the very best it is possible to do under the

*The Budget—Mr. Jamieson*

circumstances, taking the welfare of all Canadians into account.

I found it exceedingly difficult to follow the hon. member for York-Simcoe this afternoon—

**An hon. Member:** Why are you trying then?

**Mr. Jamieson:** Quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, it is scarcely worth the effort to try, and I do not propose to give it more than a minute or two because that is all it deserves. If the hon. member wishes to get into a sparring match, however, we can enjoy ourselves between now and six o'clock.

We heard the third string critic of the Tory party on economic matters—we watched No. 1 disappear with scarcely a trace the other night, and No. 2 barely sat through it all, but No. 3 came in like amateur night at the "Bijou". Rarely in my decade in this House have I heard so many non sequiturs in the response of the major spokesman for the chief opposition party in this House as I heard this afternoon. The economists he was talking about, both inside and outside the public service, are going to have a marvellous time reading his remarks in *Hansard* and trying to get some thread of continuity in what he was trying to get at in his speech.

I am satisfied, however, that at the bitter end, and in a most unsatisfactory way, he decided that he was going to bring forward his own particular tablet of stone—the great Tory answer to everything that is wrong with the world, and certainly everything that is wrong with Canada.

He listed a series of things that I could not get my mind around as he ran them off, but I am going to look at them later. He wants to eliminate taxes on gasoline, to increase tremendously significant expenditures on a variety of things; he is proposing all manner of tax reductions. The only area I could determine where he was going to cut expenditures was to go still further after government expenditures. He made the blithe statement, without supporting documentation or without evidence of where he was going to do it; he simply said, "I am going to begin on the assumption that we can cut more out of what the government is doing. Accept that as gospel—don't ask me to defend it or where the money is coming from, just accept it because everything I say is dependent upon your believing the first thing I said."

It is a cliché to say, "To govern is to choose". Everyone who has had experience in government will be aware that it is a fairly simple matter to make a choice between things demonstrably good and things demonstrably bad. In many cases, however, the problem is not so black and white; it boils down to making a choice between alternatives which are equally attractive and which are mutually exclusive.

I loved the comment the hon. member for York-Simcoe made this afternoon. I wish I had said it. It was one of those great lines that will be enshrined in history—he said "inflation is a political problem". No qualifiers before—no qualifiers after—"a political problem". I am not sure what he meant by that, Mr. Speaker, but I will tell you what inflation is not: it is not a problem to play politics with.

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