

Motion Respecting House Vote

Miss LaMarsh: Mr. Speaker, I have a question to pose to my hon. friend, who I know is always so willing—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The minister can ask a question only if the hon. member who has the floor will allow one.

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, as I expect to use my time I will be glad to answer the hon. and charming lady's question later.

Miss LaMarsh: Perhaps over lunch, then?

Mr. Hees: No, Mr. Speaker, I have no intention of ever asking the Secretary of State (Miss LaMarsh) to lunch, or anything else.

Miss LaMarsh: Mr. Speaker, on a matter of privilege—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Some hon. Members: Sit down. Order.

Miss LaMarsh: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Ricard: Don't you know you should sit down when the Speaker rises from the chair?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The minister should know that she should resume her seat when the Speaker has the floor. Would the minister kindly indicate for what purpose she wants the floor at this time?

Miss LaMarsh: I rise on a matter of privilege, Mr. Speaker. It seems to me that the hon. gentleman has demonstrated that there is only a certain kind of woman that he knows would have lunch with him.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, I remember during the last election campaign, when I had the pleasure of running against another charming lady who was a member of this house, she made the same kind of remark; and in reply I will make the same kind of comment about the Secretary of State as I made about the other lady. Every time I was asked what I thought of my opponent, I said—and I say it of the Secretary of State—"She is a very nice lady".

Now, Mr. Speaker, if I may continue, the Minister of Finance and the President of the Treasury Board claimed great credit for the so-called cuts that they were going to make in next year's budget, and we have seen those expenditures listed in the papers we have already received. But all they have done, Mr. Speaker, is exactly what every minister of

finance has done, when every year the various departments come before him to have their estimates examined. The estimates are inflated to include every item that every department would want to put forward. Naturally the minister then cuts them down to size.

That, Mr. Speaker, is what has been done this year. There has been no reduction whatever in expenditure over and above the reductions that are made in any normal year. If I may give an example, the position is the same as that of a man who goes home in the evening and whose wife says to him: "Jim, I've great news for you. I'm going to save us \$500 next year." The man says: "Well, that's a wonderful thing. This is great news and I'll take you out to dinner to celebrate". Then the man asks his wife how she is going to save the \$500 and she replies: "I decided to go out and buy a fur coat and then changed my mind. Therefore I save you \$500. However, I must tell you that I am going to increase our expenditure by 8 per cent during the coming year, so you must think I am a very good housekeeper". That, Mr. Speaker, is exactly what this government has done, and that is all it has done.

This overspending, Mr. Speaker, this refusal to cut your coat according to your cloth, has resulted in massive deficits. It is the reason that as taxpayers we are being called upon to increase our payments to the government by an extra 5 per cent. The original measure was defeated. The proposed measure, when it is introduced in some other form, is going to be fought tooth and nail by the opposition. We are going to give it exactly the same treatment that the other measure received last Monday night, because we believe that this sort of tax increase is completely unjustified.

The second reason we oppose the measure is because it is inflationary. You and I know, Mr. Speaker, that the only way we can provide jobs in this country for our people and increase our standard of living is by being able to sell our products in Canada and abroad and meet competition. If costs go up our chances of selling our goods are reduced very materially. Nobody is going to buy something just because it is made by Canadians. It must be attractive and be reasonably priced.

What this tax increase will do, Mr. Speaker, is raise the cost of the goods that we buy and sell. We all know very well that organized labour will simply add the extra 5 per