

*The Budget—Mr. Caouette*

We already know the results. The federal government will say: We cannot afford to give you more, so if you need more money, take your responsibilities and impose your own new taxes; you know where to go: in the taxpayer's pocket. The provincial representatives will go back home in poor shape, and the results of the conference will be exactly the same as in the past.

Mr. Speaker, there is another point which the Minister of Finance strongly underlined, saying that: the sums granted to date to the rich provinces of Canada, that is British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario, will be decreased so as to stimulate the construction of public buildings in the underdeveloped provinces. Which means there are seven underdeveloped provinces and three are economically sound.

I must point out that among those three provinces, two have been under Cr ditiste administration for a number of years: Alberta for 33 years and British Columbia for 18.

Now, because those provinces were lucky to have efficient administrators, they will be penalized by being asked to help the deprived provinces, while there are opportunities to improve the conditions in every province without taking anything away from any of them. But the government does not have the necessary means to act and most of all it does not want to assume its obligations and responsibilities.

Mr. Speaker, this brings me to speak about economic matters. On May 22 last, the Ralliement cr ditiste introduced in the house a motion which read as follows:

That, in the opinion of the house, the government has failed to take adequate measures in order to give Canadians the benefit of a policy of distribution of goods and services which would allow each citizen to obtain his share of Canadian abundance.

Mr. Speaker, it seems to me the motion is logical, not demagogic but realistic. To debate the motion, the government called upon two ministers who evidently could not praise Social Credit and, in fact, did not do it.

The Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Marchand) said he was not an economist, and that I was not one either. It is obvious that I am not an economist, in the present system, to try to distribute scarcity opposite abundance, and the scarce thing is money. However, I say that the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, who says he is not an economist, has nonetheless pointed out to the house that the Cr ditistes are inspired by the Holy Ghost, know magic solutions, and

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everything was repeated by the Postmaster General and Minister of Communications (Mr. Kierans) who is an economist, but in the system which lies in the distribution of scarce money in an abundance of goods and services.

I shall quote first the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion who said: I congratulate the hon. member for T miscamingue for having attracted the attention of the province and the country for 25 years with the same speech. It is quite a feat.

Mr. Speaker, why have I made the same speech? Because we have been faced with the same problems for 25 years. I should like to point out to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion that he has also delivered the same speech for 25 years, although he has been singing a different tune these past years. For 25 years, while he was a union leader in the province of Quebec, the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion made the very same speech on every occasion, lashing all Canadian and Quebec politicians for being rotten. He repeated the same thing time and again.

I regret that the minister is not in the house. Today, he is making another speech because he is on the other side of the fence. Today, he is not so eager to encourage, to assist unions. He finds them unreasonable, while for 25 years he spent his time stirring up employees against employers. The minister was a professional strike organizer in the province of Quebec. In 1949, when workers' blood was shed at Asbestos, in the province of Quebec, the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion was responsible for it.

• (4:40 p.m.)

The minister was then speaking to workers, rousing them against employers. The minister should know that I never wanted to indulge in demagoguery, which consists in rousing social classes one against another. I never did that, no matter who were involved, Noranda or Asbestos' miners, farmers, settlers, white collars, professionals, industrialists or merchants. The minister, who spent most of his life rousing employees against employers, social classes one against another, in the province of Quebec, for many years, is aware of that.

Today, he has other ideas. For many years, the minister was an avowed socialist in the province of Quebec, because all political parties and all politicians were rotten. Today, the minister is among the rotten politicians and he no longer speaks in the same way.