

intelligent man assure you that such and such is white, and then hear another prove a moment later that the same thing is black? This is a daily feature of our proceedings, and I suppose it would be childish to attempt to do away with it in this honourable chamber. After all, is not freedom of expression, whether it be of sentiment or of principle, the very essence of a democratic system?

Having said this, without malice toward anyone, I shall proceed immediately with the remarks I wish to offer for the consideration of the house. Obviously I have no intention of touching on all aspects of the budget, but this heartening speech contained features I wish to underline. The first is that in accordance with Liberal tradition it brings substantial relief to the classes of our population most in need of it, the middle class and the small wage-earner. A mere glance at the tables to be found at pages 2556 and 2557 of *Hansard* shows how successful the minister was in giving concrete expression to his concern for the small wage-earners. It should be pointed out that the average reduction of twenty-nine per cent is spread in such a manner that small wage-earners will benefit by an income tax reduction of more than fifty per cent. Naturally it would have been more gratifying if all of us could have enjoyed such a substantial reduction, but the pressing consideration is to ensure more humane living conditions to those whose incomes are low. Let us remember, on the other hand, that the new budget grants an income tax reduction of from forty-seven per cent to thirty per cent to families with incomes ranging between \$2,000 and \$5,000, and that nine out of ten taxpayers will find that their income tax has been reduced by twenty-nine per cent or more as of July 1. This year, less than two years after the end of the war, the government is in a position to grant relief to Canadian taxpayers, in respect of personal income tax alone, to the extent of approximately \$110,000,000, which will reach \$175,000,000 for the full year. Would it not be fair to say, particularly in regard to the province of Quebec, that, while the King government is removing taxes, the Duplessis government is piling them on? But this is another matter altogether; figures speak louder than words, and in any case, "*Verba volant, scripta manent.*"

We were told by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Abbott), with his characteristic virile optimism, that today Canada enjoys a degree of prosperity never exceeded in living memory, and he adds that he anticipates high production and high revenue for the coming year. If one stops to think that in many lines

demand is still ahead of production, that our exports are being maintained at a very high level, limited principally by production, and that imports from overseas flow into the country in impressive volume without impairing the demand for domestic products, it would seem that there is ample justification for the fine optimism displayed by the comptroller of the national exchequer. It is to be hoped that industrial, financial and trading companies which have not benefited by such substantial tax reductions as have individuals will be able to find the sources of supply they so sorely need.

As to the next fiscal year, assuming that the national income remains at its present high level—which the minister hopes will be the case—he anticipates that government revenues will fall from \$2,984 million to \$2,450 million, still leaving a surplus of \$190 million if the provinces of Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia do not sign agreements with the federal government, and \$80 million if they do. I leave it to the experts in this house, or those who believe they are experts, to assess the economic merits of the budget I wish to discuss the serious question of dominion-provincial relations. In this respect I wish to deal particularly with the interests of my own good, dear old province of Quebec, and with the systematic, deliberate and calculated misunderstanding with the government of Canada nurtured by the camouflaged Tory who accidentally and temporarily happens to be at the head of the government of the province of Quebec.

(Translation):

Mr. L. D. TREMBLAY (Dorchester): Mr. Speaker, I shall now proceed in the tongue spoken by my paternal forbears. Indeed, I do not hesitate to proclaim in this house, when the occasion arises, the social bilingualism of Canada.

In referring to the statement of the hon. the Minister of Finance (Mr. Abbott) on this subject, I find in *Hansard* the following words he uttered. They are those of a man of spirit, of a statesman who has the real interest of the whole of Canada at heart and who wishes to ensure understanding and peace between the various groups forming part of our country. On this subject, I shall quote from the budget speech of April 29 last, the words of the Minister of Finance:

The stability of revenues assured by the guaranteed minimum payments represents one of the chief advantages of the plan to the adhering provinces.