

The Address—Mr. Domm

the last 12 years, or as long as I can remember. When I first heard the thrust of the Carter budget I got the feeling that perhaps we had lost the hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie), that he might have moved to Washington and his budget had turned up disguised as President Carter's anti-inflation program.

I cannot say strongly enough how proud I am to be associated with this party. The leadership shown by the right hon. member for Yellowhead (Mr. Clark) and his cabinet during the Thirty-first Parliament and the winter election campaign, makes me very confident about our new role in the Thirty-second Parliament. We can hold our heads high. We told the people how it was. We told them that the free ride was over and it was time to address the major problems in our economy today, problems like high interest rates, inflation and deficits, and how we proposed to deal with those things.

● (2040)

Members opposite felt it was time to bring down that government. They felt they had alternatives they would like to present. I say to them that they are absolving themselves of all responsibility in the financial management of this country if they neglect to bring in a budget within 60 days. I feel very strongly that you cannot stand in the House of Commons day after day, week after week, and month after month, and tell us as opposition and critics, which is our role, that you are not going to introduce a budget for another several months.

I wish I could say I had the same feelings of confidence about the new government that I had about the last government and their financially accountable budget. The throne speech we heard this week offered absolutely no help for the thousands of Canadians suffering because of the current interest rate crisis. Perhaps the clearest comment on the speech was in the reaction of the money markets. The Canadian dollar dropped by more than half a cent in value in one day following the speech, as reported in the *Globe and Mail*.

We in Peterborough have seen the new government's indecisiveness at another level. The minister responsible for Parks Canada, the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Roberts), announced on March 12 of this year that he would make a final decision regarding the transfer of the Parks Canada regional office from Cornwall to Peterborough within ten to 14 days. The first deadline passed on March 22. The second deadline passed on March 26. It is now April 15. Maybe the minister is too busy. Maybe he is indecisive. Maybe he cannot make up his mind. Maybe he has not had enough study in seven years with regard to where Parks Canada should be located.

The fact is that neither the minister nor his colleagues can make a decision. This is important, and not only to Peterborough. It is important to the people of Cornwall and those families who have moved to Peterborough and are commuting to Cornwall in order to do their job. The employees affected by the lack of decision-making on the part of the government are 20 families who have already purchased homes in Peterborough, plus approximately 125 families in the process of decid-

ing where to enrol their young people in school. In addition, accommodation has been acquired in Peterborough and the building is vacant awaiting a decision by the minister. Many civil servants and their families are living in a town at the cost of the taxpayers of Canada with no job to do. The vacillation shown by the minister in this matter was an indication of what we could expect from the Liberal government at the opening session of the Thirty-second Parliament.

My constituents are also very anxious and concerned to hear about another government decision which it is having a great deal of difficulty making. It will affect the Peterborough riding. This decision is with regard to the constituency of Durham-Northumberland. That constituency was recently the victim of a horrible natural disaster when flooding caused millions of dollars of damage to the town of Port Hope. Last summer Eldorado Nuclear, a federal Crown corporation, announced it would construct a \$100 million refinery in Hope township near Port Hope just south of Peterborough.

Last summer the new Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Lalonde)—I do not see him in the chamber this evening—announced that for the time being he was going to stop the progress affecting the construction of Eldorado Nuclear.

Last month, Eldorado Nuclear Limited, a federal Crown corporation, announced it would construct a \$100 million uranium refinery in Hope township near Port Hope.

An hon. Member: You already read that.

Mr. Domm: Last month the new minister decided to review that in the same way the ministry is reviewing Parks Canada. He made that announcement at the same time as the town was digging out from the \$10 million damage caused by the flood. He made that announcement despite the flood, despite the impending closure of the Firestone Canada plant in nearby Whitby, and despite the fact it will cost \$24.5 million more to construct the refinery in northern Ontario, as well as an additional \$3 million in operating costs to build it in the north.

I would like to know why such a decision would be made at a time when unemployment is 2 per cent higher in Port Hope than in northern Ontario and when \$3 million has already been spent on site preparation in Hope township. Common decency says a community should not be kicked while it is already down. I urge the hon. member for Outremont (Mr. Lalonde) to allow the project to proceed in Hope township as common sense dictates, as Liberal research indicated, and as Conservative action proved.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Domm: You laugh; it's your research.

Mr. Kaplan: It's even cheaper to build it in the States.

Mr. Domm: They are even suggesting we build it in the United States.

On another level, I am curious as to what steps the new government will take to help those affected by the current high