

that the Budget of last April contained a proper general approach. That was the right kind of general approach compared with the disasters of his predecessors. The general approach was right, but that general approach has disappeared, and now the Minister has joined his predecessor in the march to inexorable disaster. This Budget guarantees Canadians a dubious and diminishing economic future. He has joined the march. He has arrested nothing, and he no longer moves in a direction that is satisfactory. He now has no chance of bringing economic recovery to Canada.

Of course, we will have other speakers in this debate who will be tackling different phases of the Budget—the question of pension reform, which is important; improvements in the assessment practices of the Department of National Revenue, which we forced the Government to commence and bring about. That is important as well. These things will all be discussed.

In this connection, I want to move the following amendment to the Budget:

That all the words following the word "That" be deleted and the following substituted therefor:

"this House regrets the failure of the Government to present measures designed to reduce Canada's budgetary deficit, lower existing high interest rates, reduce crippling high levels of unemployment or to create meaningful pension reform all of which are needed as a result of years of government economic mismanagement and condemns the Government for its continued misuse of public funds and arrogant maladministration which have led to a crisis in public trust and confidence in government".

To top off this record I have given this morning, this résumé of economic mismanagement, wrong estimating, deceit of the public, complete lack of control or fidelity—as though that were not bad enough—there is not anyone in the country with an ounce of impartiality who does not look at Ottawa and see a government which is wallowing in the worst kind of stable politics. I mean "stable" in the sense of a stable in which one keeps animals. They see leading this country a group of people who are prepared to do anything to keep themselves in power. That destroys confidence. The only hope the country has is that before too long there will be an election and we will have an opportunity to give the people of Canada an alternative and to show what we can do with the economic administration of this country. That is the only hope. Even if this group brought into the House a set of perfect policies to fit our economic circumstances, they would be unsuccessful as they cannot work without confidence. And there is no confidence in this Government.

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

**Mr. Crosbie:** If this Minister had the confidence which he pretends he now has, surely with four years expiring on February 18 of this week the Government would be going to the electorate. This has been the practice in every democratic country, that the government goes to the electorate in its fourth year. This Government has completed four years.

**Mr. Fisher:** You did it in four months.

### *The Budget—Mr. Crosbie*

**Mr. Crosbie:** Yes, and Canadian people suffered terribly because of it. Your term in Parliament will be a short-term one; you will not be back next time. I will miss you.

**Mr. Fisher:** Come out to my riding and campaign. We love you.

**Mr. Crosbie:** Mississauga will give you an awful mauling, brother, when the election comes.

**Mr. Fisher:** Come down and help them out. We love you.

**Mr. Crosbie:** Only this Government would go over four years in these circumstances and try to hang on after the four-year term. If the Minister thinks that the Canadian people are supportive of what they have done for the last four years—for the last 14—why does he not advise the Prime Minister to settle down here? Is the Prime Minister prepared to spend six weeks in Canada on an election campaign? He could not bear not to be out of the country somewhere during those six weeks. He should try to persuade him to stay here during those six weeks and have an election campaign. Let us put it to the test.

**Mr. Lalonde:** Where were you in January?

**Mr. Fisher:** Yes, where were you?

**Mr. Crosbie:** I paid for my own trip.

**Mr. Lalonde:** You are paid to be in the House.

**Mr. Harquail:** When did you get home?

**Mr. Crosbie:** Mr. Speaker, in January I was in the Yemen and, believe me, the level of intelligence there is far higher than it is in the government ranks.

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

**Mr. Crosbie:** While there I saw someone who reminded me of the Minister of Finance.

**Mr. Harquail:** That is the most intelligent remark you could make.

**Mr. Crosbie:** We ran into a group of quagga, wild jackasses, such as the one yelling down in the corner.

We ask Government Members who will now pretend to be so proud of this Budget document, indeed, we plead with them, to dissolve the House and go to an election. Let us put this to the test. Let us see what Canadians think. Let us see what the 1.4 million unemployed think. Let us see what they think in Newfoundland which did not have a Cabinet Minister for six months. Its Cabinet Minister was thrown out of Cabinet, humiliated, and then reconstituted and recycled six months later because the person they attempted to appoint in the meantime had a little bother with the tax authorities. Let us see what they think of them down in Newfoundland. Let us see what they think of them in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. Let us see what they think of them in