

The Budget—Mr. Leboe

register in the name of all the priests of Montreal? Does it mean that the Department of National Revenue will have records for every rectory? Will rectories have to obtain a special licence to hand out receipts? Will they have to hire accountants to present their annual returns of information to the government?

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance should enlighten us on the subject. In any case, I wish to say that the Department of National Revenue has no business to ask vicars and curates to register with the department. Parish priests and curates should not have to submit reports to the Department of National Revenue. They cannot be ordered around like employees of the federal government; they have their own flocks to attend to.

The Minister of Finance should find a new method with regard to this question of receipts for charitable donations and he should not try to regiment and enlist parish priests and curates as he tries to do now.

Mr. Speaker, we are disappointed with this budget. There is no tax reduction; on the contrary, we find an increase in the income tax, at least taxes that were lowered last year were increased once more. There is no mention of increasing family allowances and old age pensions, or of raising tax deductions to \$1,500 or \$3,000, as was suggested by our colleagues of the New Democratic Party. We find their amendment is satisfactory and we are going to vote for it.

As for the Conservative amendment, it seems to us satisfactory at first sight. I did not have the opportunity to consider it thoroughly, but at first glance it seems satisfactory and, as far as we are concerned, we shall also vote for it.

● (3:20 p.m.)

[English]

Mr. Bert Leboe (Cariboo): First of all, Mr. Speaker, I should like to say to the minister that we sympathize with him greatly in so far as his problems are concerned. We do not agree with what he has offered but we certainly sympathize with him in so far as the problems of taxation which he faces are concerned. In his opening remarks the minister referred to the Royal Commission on Taxation. If one were to summarize what he was saying, one would say that he was presenting a stopgap Budget while waiting for more information. I do not feel this is too much out of the way.

[Mr. Grégoire.]

However, I take strong exception to the position the minister is taking regarding the boom in Canada. I do not believe that the boom about which he is talking is prevalent all over Canada. I think that the problem he and the country face is the proper distribution of goods and services. This is where I feel the real problem lies. He has said we must retard the vehicle, that we should ease up on the gas a bit because we are getting into a position where it is not physically possible for Canadians to go any farther.

I should like to remind the minister that it should be our duty in this parliament to assist the provinces to increase production and make more goods available. If there are inflationary pressures, it is not our duty to impede the provinces and put stumbling blocks in the way of provincial growth. After all, capital investment must precede production. If we are going to cut down on capital investment, then surely what we are saying in no uncertain terms is that we are going to cut down on the growth of production because without capital investment we cannot have the type of production we need.

If we believe what the minister says, then it simply means that we have too much money chasing too few goods. The provincial governments are playing a very extensive role in Canadian life. As time goes on the role played by the provincial governments is going to become larger in relation to the position of the federal government in Ottawa. History shows that this is taking place. We realize that this must be the case. The budgets of provincial governments are becoming more important, as are the budgets of the municipalities. At this stage in our political history it is a good thing we are fortunate enough to have strong, stable, provincial administrations. The confusion we have had in the federal field has convinced me that this has been one of the redeeming features of our system of government in Canada.

The minister has said that we must provide ample provincial revenues. I do not like repeating myself, but I must ask the minister why his department does not do some real research into the possibilities of a municipal bank? A municipal bank would reach down into the grass roots of our provincial needs. Everyone in this chamber knows that the needs of municipalities are greater than the needs of any other level of government in Canada today. The minister himself mentioned the initial responsibilities of