

*The Budget—Mr. Simmons*

It's time to face up to economic realities, he said, . . . It's time to make the most of this country's opportunity. That can only come through energy self-sufficiency, reduced government spending, increased productivity and investment and an end to deficit financing.

That is the promise of this government.

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

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** These are the things we have to do ourselves in Canada. No one else will do them for us. If the opposition parties do not understand that, then they have broken faith with Canadians.

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

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** Believe me, Canadians understand this challenge and Canadians are prepared to accept this challenge because they have faith in Canada, faith in its resources, faith in its people, and faith in its potential.

**An hon. Member:** Forty-three minutes to go.

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** If this party goes to the country, the country will have faith in this government.

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

**Mr. Andras:** Would the hon. President of the Privy Council (Mr. Baker) permit a very gentle, quick question?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. Is the hon. member rising on a point of order?

**Mr. Andras:** I am wondering if the minister who just finished speaking would permit a question?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** I did not hear the hon. member because his microphone was not turned on.

**Mr. Andras:** Will the House or the minister permit a quick question, based upon his remarks of a few minutes ago?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** Yes, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Andras:** The hon. minister has made many quotations from many documents. I wonder if he has seen the quotation of Dalton Camp which reads:

If the new government were a play just opened on Broadway, it would be shut down tomorrow for bad reviews.

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

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, I saw that quotation. If the hon. gentleman and his colleagues want to put us down, go ahead.

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

**Mr. Roger Simmons (Burin-St. George's):** Mr. Speaker, my first words ought to be those of sincere thanks to Your Honour, members of the House and all who have been so kind and warm in receiving me here. Especially my thanks go to the

[Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton).]

hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Trudeau), the opposition House leader, the whip, their staff, and all the others who have helped me to become oriented. Indeed, I extend a special thanks to the persons who are responsible for my being here, the voters of the district of Burin-St. George's.

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

**Mr. Simmons:** Especially I want to express to them my firm commitment that I shall do my very best to represent them in this Parliament adequately. I want to welcome my friend, the hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Hovdebo), who was elected on the same day as I and who, like I, succeeded a very great Canadian. As Your Honour will know, I succeed in my place here a very great Newfoundlander and a devoted Canadian, the Hon. Don Jamieson.

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

**Mr. Simmons:** It is rare indeed that a man with his combination of confidence, drive and energy is attracted to elected public life in this country. I am honoured to succeed him. I hasten to add that I shall not try to fill his shoes. What I intend to do is to try, to the very best of my ability, to make some contribution to the cause which brings all of us to the chamber. In saying that, of course I am aware that this, my first term here, may be historically brief, but not so my second term as a government member.

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

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Simmons:** Mr. Speaker, as you can see my French is extremely limited, but I intend to do something about it as soon as possible. That is why I have registered for French lessons this morning. So if you find it difficult to understand me in English, do not give up right away. In the near future, after hearing my newly acquired French, you will realize that my English is not so bad.

[*English*]

In my six years as a member of the Newfoundland House of Assembly, and in my many years of watching this Parliament, I saw something tonight which I have never before witnessed. First I saw my good friend, the hon. member for Prince Albert, make his maiden speech, and a good speech it was.

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

**Mr. Simmons:** Then I saw the unbelievable, and I wish the minister about whom I am to speak were in the chamber.

**An hon. Member:** He is never here.

**Mr. Simmons:** I saw the unbelievable tonight. I saw a minister of the Crown throw normal common courtesy and normal parliamentary decency out the window and launch a vicious attack on a new member, a brand new member.

**Some hon. Members:** Shame, shame!