

The Budget—Mr. Nowlan

the actual figures. There is unemployment, and we have been doing and are doing everything humanly possible for a government to do. There is not one matter that was suggested in this great convention which the Liberals held last week, no specific statement or promise offered by the Liberals for dealing with unemployment, that this government has not already embarked upon. I challenge them to name one. They talk about slum clearance and sewage projects—

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the minister—

Some hon. Members: Sit down.

Mr. Pickersgill:—will allow me to accept his challenge. To accept his challenge I will name one right off, and that is to pay 90 per cent of the cost of completing the trans-Canada highway in the Atlantic provinces.

Mr. Nowlan: Ninety per cent of the cost to complete the trans-Canada highway in the maritime provinces will make no great contribution to resolving the problem of unemployment; none whatsoever.

Mr. Hellyer: There were lots of things. You should have joined us and you would have learned something.

Mr. Nowlan: My hon. friends on the one hand talk about cutting taxes to encourage employment. How much of a tax cut are we going to get; \$50 million, \$100 million or \$200 million? It must be a very substantial amount if you are going to increase employment. Yet at the same time they say they are going to spend money on public works. They say there will be a tremendous expenditure on public works. How do they reconcile these two? These are like Grimm's fairy tales that little children read when I was a boy—I did, anyway—and I presume they still read them. Even Grimm's fairy tales could not compare with the Liberal platform that was drafted last week at this convention. There is no doubt whatsoever about that.

They talk to us today about unemployment and the solution for unemployment. I would like to see something produced in that direction. The hon. member talked about this special session of parliament, as he called it. He talked about the budget, and suggested that there was no reason whatsoever for dealing with this matter.

If there is unemployment in this country today—and there is; I admit that—where does the responsibility lie? My hon. friends opposite talk about the failure of this government—the government on your right, Mr. Speaker—to deal with the problem. I have an authority which I am sure will meet

[Mr. Nowlan.]

with the approval of the hon. gentlemen opposite, because this gentleman has never been recognized as a great friend of this government. He is certainly not a political supporter of this government in any way, shape or form. Certainly in his talks, in his writings and in every reference he makes he usually criticizes this government and the Prime Minister. As we know the Liberals, in searching around for remedies somewhere or other, first had a convention of liberals with a small "l", and that was so discouraging that they decided to hold one last week for Liberals with a capital "L".

At the convention for liberals with a small "l", as one of their speakers they had Mr. Michael Barkway, who is the head now, I believe, of the Toronto *Star* bureau here in Ottawa. He is one who has been associated, as I have said, in his writings and talks with criticism of this government. I am sure he is one whose judgment my hon. friend the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate and others will be very, very happy to accept. I could quote from various statements which he made before this Queen's University convention which met last fall. This is one thing he said. He was speaking about economic conditions and about the aberration, the insanity which characterized Canada, at least since 1950, and the results of it from 1950 to 1957. He said:

This places a heavy responsibility upon the Liberal party, which will not be easy to discharge because the Liberals are so closely associated with the Great Aberration of the 1950's.

Mr. Pickersgill: That was a boom.

Mr. Nowlan: Then he said:

Nowhere in Canada have I heard any serious suggestion that the party has a better leader in sight than Mr. Pearson. But I have several times heard it said that the party cannot win public confidence until it has a leader completely dissociated from the old regime.

That is not a Tory speaking, Mr. Speaker; that is not someone—

Mr. Pickersgill: Nor is it a Liberal speaking.

Mr. Nowlan:—who is sympathetic toward this government. This is a man addressing a Liberal convention, and I must say I admire his courage and I also appreciate his judgment in speaking as he did to that convention. Then Mr. Barkway went on:

It would be a ghoulish task to try to catalogue the dismal illusions and failures of the later Liberal years. They would fill a book—a history of the 1950's, which badly needs to be written.

Perhaps the hon. member, with the same fictional qualities he portrayed in editing a book the other day, might rewrite this history. Then Mr. Barkway says:

But for the present purpose it is vital to indicate some of them which hang like millstones around the party's neck.