

friend that I would not take more than four minutes. So I thank hon. members and I hope the minister will take notice once of all of my suggestions.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Order, please. It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Surrey-White Rock (Mr. Friesen)—Transport—Disparity between subsidies for ferries on east and west coasts; the hon. member for Churchill (Mr. Smith)—Manpower—Canada Works Program—Differentiation between status Indians on and off reservations.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY S.O. 58—SUGGESTION THAT BUDGET CONTAIN PROVISIONS TO STIMULATE EMPLOYMENT AND CONTAIN INFLATION

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Clark:

That this House condemns the government's failure to set or fulfil reasonable economic goals, and urges the Minister of Finance to be forthright with the people of Canada by revealing in the budget the specific goals he will be seeking to reach with regard to employment, inflation, Canada's trade balance, and the rate of economic growth.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I am sure hon. members who have read the motion put down by the leader of the opposition have found it to be rather obscure in several ways, not the least of which is the suggestion that there should be a forthright statement in the budget as to the anticipated or expected levels of growth, job creation, unemployment, inflation, and so on. Budget statements have always included such estimates.

Mr. Dick: Not always. Turner left them out one time.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): The rather interesting thing hon. members will have noticed is the use of the word "goals" by the leader of the opposition. I suppose one could have said that if this had been a motion proposed by the leader of the New Democratic Party the concept of "goals"—which to me at least implies a more precise setting of patterns like the Soviet Gosplan—is something one might expect from a social-

Economic Policy

ist party, but it is strange to me that the leader of the Tory party should use that word. Total control of determinants does not now exist in our economy and has never existed. As the leader of the opposition should know our economy operates on the basis of many thousands of private decisions on the impact of the international economy of our interdependent world and on a range of variables beyond the control of man or any group; for example, determinants in the agricultural area, such as climate.

Mr. Friesen: In other words, don't even try.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): We may make estimates of assumed levels of performance, but any sensible person would recognize that they are only guesstimates, and they are subject to many uncontrollable variables. To me, that is the basic and simple answer to the motion.

Mr. Dick: I am glad you support it.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): I do not support the motion; it is totally irrational. The leader of the opposition dealt very little with the motion. I would like for a moment to deal with some of the remarks of the leader of the opposition. This is an economic debate and I normally would not have gone into this particular point, but the leader of the opposition had quite a bit to say about national unity and about the contribution of the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) to national unity. By raising that question, the leader of the opposition brought himself in as a figure to promote, or otherwise, national unity. The leader of the opposition is not here now, and indeed the pattern of his leadership has been that he has been out of the House and out around the country.

Mr. Paproski: That's not true.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Indeed, the leader of the opposition himself said that he was not going to be here. He has been out and around the country making himself better known and communicating so that people can see the kind of man he is the kind of leader he is and the kinds of principles he espouses.

Mr. Paproski: He has been promoting national unity.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): The hon. member says he has been promoting national unity. Caesar once said, "I came, I saw, I conquered". The leader of the opposition has gone out, he has been seen, and he has been seen through by the people he has met.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

• (1720)

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): I repeat, to adopt the comment that Caesar once made, "I came, I saw, I conquered", the leader of the opposition has gone out there, he has been seen, and he has been seen through by the people he has met.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!