

*The Budget—Mr. Baldwin*

All of us have to recognize that there are at present two major trends in national development and planning. On the one hand, there is an obvious rush by industry and commerce to the larger centres, creating major problems of urban living. If this trend continues some experts estimate that at the end of this century the great bulk of Canada's population will be concentrated in a few large urban complexes. On the other hand, areas which have not been fortunate enough to develop economically, or which have become depressed because of industrial movements and changes, have become the special concern of all governments, and major efforts are being made with the support of all of us to restore hope, vitality and life in these communities.

There is a great gap in public thinking and in public policy regarding the future of this country. We appear to stand aside almost mesmerized as great urban complexes grow larger and larger. We do what we can to alleviate obvious cases of area distress, but until now we must recognize that governments, whether provincial or federal, have not established solid goals for future planning, and certainly have in no way developed effective techniques to divert and direct the development of industry to many pleasant and admirably situated smaller places and towns in Canada.

The failure to properly address ourselves now to this problem will have the gravest possible consequences for our future. No one can view with complacency the rush of population and industry to great centres. All of us must be alarmed by the relative depopulation of smaller places which has occurred and will continue unless positive steps are taken to counteract it. All of us must be concerned about the effect on the quality of life and living in Canada if smaller centres, such as the towns along the St. Lawrence, are not encouraged to grow and to develop.

I began, Mr. Speaker, by describing this budget as part of a great national stocktaking, leading to the provision of a sound basis for future growth and expansion. Those of us who have the privilege of being here must be concerned not only with growth and expansion for its own sake, but for the better welfare of all Canadians. To accomplish this there must be much more thought given to what this country will be like 25 or 50 years from now. There must be greater co-operation and co-ordination of effort between all levels of government, to ensure that this

nation not only continues to prosper, but will do so in an environment which will be pleasant and agreeable for all its citizen. I believe the adoption of this budget is a positive step towards building a better Canada.

**Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, I see that there has been given to me the somewhat doubtful honour of talking out the budget. If I had time I should have liked to dwell on some of the iniquities of the government in regard to the fiscal irresponsibility they have shown in connection with the financial mismanagement of the affairs of this country. While the government was steadily pushing the economy up the inflationary spiral, at the same time it was making soft noises telling the people of Canada that things were well and that it would balance the budget.

Finance minister Gordon on June 13, 1963, as reported at page 999 of *Hansard*, in his budget speech said this:

It is important that we begin to put our national house in order: that we begin to move toward balancing our federal budget under conditions of high employment. We must take the first step in this direction now.

On April 26, 1965 finance minister Gordon, again during the course of his budget speech, had this to say, as reported at page 433 of *Hansard*:

In practical terms it seems fair to say that after a long period of troublesome deficits the nation's finances are now under firm control.

Then finance minister Sharp in the course of his budget speech on March 29, 1966, as reported at page 3380 of *Hansard*, said:

To all intents and purposes therefore the budget was in balance this year.

Again finance minister Sharp in his budget speech on December 19, 1966, as reported at page 11331 of *Hansard*, said:

I want to repeat what I said in this house on September 8 and on other occasions, that we must moderate the rate of increase in new public expenditures. Neither the capacity nor the willingness of Canadians to pay higher taxes should be taken for granted.

And so it goes, Mr. Speaker. My hon. friends on this side of the house have pointed to what was said by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson), then president of Treasury Board, and by the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp) last fall and this spring. In the face of those statements we find that since the government first took office there has been an aggregate of accumulated deficits totalling approximately \$1,800 million. This does not