

The Address—Mr. Stevens

is fear itself. I am not afraid. I will not trade the problems of Canada for those of any other country in the world and neither will any member of this House.

In building a country, we have had to cope with all the problems inherent in developing a new land, in fighting a vast geography and a harsh climate, in experiencing severe economic depression, in accepting international responsibilities, in living in an age of great complexity and tremendous change, and we have succeeded.

We must adopt once again the spirit of those who built this country, a spirit of adventure and initiative, a taste for risk, and the determination of the explorer. This is the challenge we must meet.

● (2035)

This country has been too good for too many of us to let it be destroyed! I know that the vast majority of Canadians want to roll up their sleeves, use their imagination, create, and produce in the manner of those who came before us. Each of us has his own contribution to make. Let us do so with enthusiasm. This is the only way we can leave to our children the heritage which we have received—a country rich in the diversity of its people and its natural resources, vast, generous and tolerant, a country which has been, which is, and which will be the envy of the entire world.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: As I am sure all members are aware, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Chrétien) was granted some leniency in terms of time when he was making his rather major statement. Certainly, if the occasion arises, the same courtesy will be extended to those who respond to him on the other side of the House.

In order for the minister to append a notice of ways and means to the *Votes and Proceedings*, an order of the House is required. Is it agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: Agreed and so ordered.

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, in joining in this debate this evening may I also add my congratulations to the mover (Mr. Dawson) and the seconder (Mr. Wood) of the motion, who spoke to us earlier. Our time is limited tonight, and first I should like to say that I feel the budget which was delivered tonight, because it is really a mini-budget, has some good in it and some bad.

Some hon. Members: Right on!

Mr. Stevens: Let me tell you what was not in the minister's statement tonight.

An hon. Member: The truth.

Mr. Stevens: The government offers little hope for those one million Canadians who will be looking for work in the cold wintry months ahead.

[Mr. Chrétien.]

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stevens: There is little hope for the youth in our country who will be seeking their first job opportunities in the midst of the worst economic conditions in at least the last 30 years.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stevens: For those out of work in our five eastern provinces and for those out of work in all of those high unemployment areas of Canada, let them not look to Ottawa for help, judging from this statement tonight.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stevens: Sure, hon. members will recall that the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) only yesterday, and the Minister of Finance (Mr. Chrétien) tonight, spoke about \$150 million for the unemployed. What is that in relation to the million unemployed?

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Nothing!

Mr. Stevens: It is \$150 per unemployed person in this country.

Mr. Paproski: Shame!

Mr. Stevens: Expressed another way, that \$150 million may mean 16,000 fresh jobs—with one million out of work in the country. That is this government in action!

Before this evening we had one million unemployed in Canada and we were heading toward our worst winter since the dirty thirties. Having heard the minister's statement tonight, I would suggest we are still heading for that type of winter.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stevens: As I have said, there is some good in the budget tonight, and some bad. Frankly, I am pleased that the government has responded to our constant demand to reduce taxes, as far as the personal income taxpayer of this country is concerned.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stevens: Mr. Speaker, two budgets back we first raised the significant point that Canadian taxpayers were being overtaxed, and we asked that there be a substantial reduction in their favour. At the time the budget was tabled in March, 1977, we renewed our request, and only yesterday the Leader of the Official Opposition (Mr. Clark) asked once again that there be a considerable tax reduction for those earners, especially below the \$16,000 a year level.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stevens: I am pleased that at long last the government has responded to that request. I only wish in future it would