

*The Budget—Mr. Crosbie*

Prime Minister made during the election campaign. I quote now from the *Ottawa Citizen*, that bible of Liberalism here in Ottawa:

Finance Minister Allan MacEachen said Friday his budget this month will fulfil all the Liberal campaign promises.

This is one he has not fulfilled. For the minister to get up in question period today and try to draw subterfuge and deception over the breaking of that solemn commitment is below him. It is not the trend line. It is not any kind of line at all. It is under the rate of GNP, and the Liberal line, and the advertising line won't work. It is here in black and white.

*The Toronto Sun* on the day after that solemn occasion had an editorial about the great Liberal economic platform. They printed it in their editorial. *The Toronto Sun* headed its editorial "A Pile of Poop". I will quote from the *Toronto Sun*, an eminent Canadian newspaper. *The Toronto Sun* has been borne out because these positive commitments are not being made.

I mentioned some of the rest last night. I am not going to mention them again. I do not want to be repetitious. However, this is one point I have had to be repetitious about because the Minister of Finance is trying to trick and deceive the people of Canada into thinking there was not that solemn commitment. His Prime Minister made that commitment and he and the President of the Treasury Board, Open Sesame Johnston, are making an open raid on Treasury Board.

In the question period, he talked about how could we have kept to our expenditure limit of 10 per cent. How would we have kept to it? Because we had in the Treasury Board a man who was dedicated to keeping to no more than a 10 per cent increase in expenditures. In fact, he felt that was way too high. He thought it was crazy. He thought it was profligate. He thought the finance department was all wet that we could not hold it down to 5 per cent. I can assure you that Horatio Slasher, my seat companion, would have kept it to 10 per cent.

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

**Mr. Crosbie:** Let us hear no more of this attempt by the Minister of Finance. We know he is astute. The press tells us he is astute. The press tells us he is crafty and strategic, in tactical terms and in strategic terms. What else do they tell us? He is cagey. He is the master of strategy. He put us out of power and he put himself into power, and the ends justify the means. He is a tremendous exponent of that.

The minister will do anything to keep Liberals in power, but at least keep them in power by being a bit truthful, for a change. That is a commitment the Prime Minister made and which has been broken in this budget.

What else is wrong with this budget? It would be easier and shorter to ask what is right with it. I had to refer to our budget of last December because the government is going to refer to it. We heard them refer to it in the question period today. The little tame tabby was brought up from the Liberal ranks to ask a little tame question of the big tiger, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, about what would have happened with

oil and gas prices had that horrible Crosbie budget come in as compared to what it is going to be with our present wondrous budget? We heard the foolish answer from the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Lalonde). That minister is not even including in his computation the new tax, the "help PetroCan buy out any foreign company in the nation" tax. He did not even include that in his calculation. It could be \$4 a barrel a year. What is that going to do to oil and gas prices in Canada if it is implemented? Never mind these little tame tabbies asking the big pussycat their questions. Let them lick their chops with these false answers.

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

**Mr. Crosbie:** Here is what the then finance critic of the government said last December, that gentleman who is certainly resigned to his lot. He is not resigning from it, he is resigned to it. Here is what he said about the budget of last year and I quote from December 12 *Hansard* at page 2299:

What we should have had... last night was a budget that would reduce inflation, strengthen the economy and create more jobs for Canadians, now, next year, and in the years to come. Instead, this budget brings Canadians a higher cost of living, including higher food prices, more unemployment and no economic growth—

If I had not told hon. members the author of that statement, they would have thought I was speaking about the present budget, I am sure. There is not a redeeming feature in it, because it does not even offer the people of Canada any assistance with the higher costs they face as a result of the budget, costs which have been forecast by the minister. The Canadian people are faced with a budget that does not reduce inflation. It does not strengthen the economy. It does not create more jobs. It brings them a higher cost of living, higher food prices, more unemployment and no economic growth. That is what it brings them. It does not bring them one redeeming feature, nothing to help them meet these additional burdens.

What else is wrong with it? It is an extremely regressive budget. The minister said that my budget was socially regressive. His is socially desperate. In our budget we had certain aims we wanted to accomplish for the good of Canada and all Canadians. What were they? It was summarized in the budget. We said the Canadian economy had great potential. Second, that its economic performance could be improved if we improved economic incentives for private individuals and firms.

Where is that kind of treatment in the budget before us? The private sector is ignored in this budget. The private sector will be the subject of intervention. This is an interventionist budget on a massive scale. The government is drawing to itself here in Ottawa tremendous power from the rest of this country. Now they are going to take power from the private sector. The oil and gas sector is no longer to be called private. If it is private, its privacy has been vastly interfered with. Intervention!