

*The Budget—Mr. Lapointe*

Toronto area in order to help a Toronto man to buy a house comparable to one in Montreal. Prices have got out of line, yet this aspect of the matter has not been recognized or dealt with.

● (1720)

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Penner):** Order. I regret to interrupt the hon. member, but the time allotted to him has expired.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Charles Lapointe (Charlevoix):** Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate in this important debate on the budget.

It has been several years, 16 to be exact, since the member for Charlevoix addressed his hon. colleagues from this side of the House. I would like to take this opportunity offered by this first speech I have the honour to make today, Mr. Speaker, to thank the people of my riding who put their confidence in me during the last election. The return of Charlevoix to the Liberal party after 16 years means a lot to me because the mandate given to me is first of all to come and express in this House and to the government the needs of my riding, and also work within the Liberal government to establish across this country a just society for all Canadians. It is for the sake of that ideal that I was elected, Mr. Speaker, and that is what I intend to fight for beside the right hon. Prime Minister and his cabinet colleagues.

The budget introduced by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) meets exactly that double mandate in the sense that, through various measures, it is first aimed at lessening the tax burden of those on low income, something which will allow us to help those in our society who are most vulnerable to the effects of inflation. Second, the budget is aimed at making all parts of Canada benefit from the particular resources which are sometimes the attribute of a single area.

As a member representing a riding experiencing an unfortunate rate of unemployment of about 25 per cent all year round, it will be easily understood that it was with some apprehension that I expected a budget that could have been little more than anti-inflationary. Fortunately, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance had the wisdom and the courage not to listen to the prophets of evil and introduced an expansionary budget allowing the people in underprivileged areas of this country to look at the future with hope.

The economic slowness of underprivileged areas such as my riding is very often due to their remoteness from large centers. Because of this fact, the Speech from the Throne included a new transport policy for such remote areas, a policy enabling their people to live at the same pace as others in urban centres.

At this point, Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay special tribute to the hon. Minister of Transport (Mr. Marchand) who always worked for a united Canada, as is once more illustrated in this new transport policy. This policy is especially important for my constituency, where there is no regular air service within a 450 mile radius, and where train service is provided in a quarter only of the total Charlevoix area.

[Mr. Stevens.]

Mr. Speaker, I hope we will soon be in a position to reactivate Forestville et Saint-Irénée airports, which will allow people in Charlevoix to live at the same pace as those in urban centres and also to use services in those centres. Also in the field of transportation, it is important, Mr. Speaker that our ports along the St. Lawrence be maintained in operation. In addition to the traditional importance of these ports for our trade and tourist industry, it should be fully realized that Charlevoix has always depended on the St. Lawrence and that the use of its docks is a privilege we grew accustomed to.

We cannot speak of regional disparity without mentioning the Department of Regional Economic Expansion which since its inception has been the main factor in providing equal opportunities for all Canadians. I very firmly believe in the department's work. It will need increasingly bigger funds to meet the demands from all such Canadian areas that are not responsible for the inflation spiral or pressures on the economy, but that must of necessity bear the consequences. It is urgent in my opinion that the department, along with the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, take steps in the nearest possible future to help create jobs in the tourist industry. This industry, the leading economic force in a number of Canadian areas, has an increasing need of government help to face the general cost increase. It should be treated in the same way as other industries. Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, in that field and in most cases, they are small and medium businesses to which the government wish to give assistance.

For too long, Mr. Speaker, the riding of Charlevoix was considered, outside our area, as one of the most beautiful parts in the province of Quebec, reserved for the wealthy tourists who enjoy living in isolation during summer months.

Times have changed and people wish now that the touristic attractions in their riding be organized on an industrial basis which will allow them to work for decent wages and to participate also in the many advantages we find in Charlevoix, advantages which were reserved until recently to a small minority.

Located between two very active economic poles, that is the Quebec City area and the Baie-Comeau-Hauterive area, the riding of Charlevoix does not benefit at all from those two centres of attraction. Inside our own territory, our future must be based on agricultural and touristic development, on the development of forest resources and of our maritime location.

In my riding, people live on a very low scale. The great national problem which we now have to face is the fact that this country still has underprivileged people, underdeveloped areas and Canadians who are unable to get their share of the resources and benefits it offers. That is why, Mr. Speaker, the budget proposed by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) should have favoured an expanding economy in order to come to the help of those Canadians who have a right to pass the poverty point.

As I mentioned earlier, Mr. Speaker, I believe, and I know that my colleagues hold the same view, that it is for the achievement of this single purpose, that I have been sent to Parliament. It is rather significant that a majority government should have been elected in this time of