

complains because the Liberals entered into an agreement with Ford which did not include any protection and did not guarantee the number of jobs; it was a piece of botchery, debauchery, on the part of the Liberals. Anyway, he is not around here to tell us what action to take or what action he is taking.

Last fall, Mr. Speaker, hon. gentlemen opposite wanted a budget. My, it is amazing how things change when people move just a few feet across the floor of this chamber. They demanded a budget. Why? The present Minister of Justice had this to say on October 23:

It is important that the nation know where it stands. I hope the Minister of Finance will tell us what he is thinking and what he intends to do.

That is why they wanted a budget last fall. I refer to page 517 of *Hansard*. The former minister of finance went on to give various other reasons and, as reported at page 516, he said:

We have to get ready to move now rather than push back all the problems until later.

I could read his whole speech and the reasons he gave. The hon. member for Windsor West also gave his reasons for demanding a budget, as reported at page 950 of *Hansard* for November 5, but I will not put on record all the reasons they gave then for demanding a budget. Why do they not talk, now, to this reluctant debutante, the present Minister of Finance? He does not want to bring in a budget. Why does he not want to let the nation know where he stands? I will tell you, Mr. Speaker. It is because when the nation finds out where he stands, the nation will know that he stands on sand. The nation is not going to like where he stands. The nation is not going to like what it hears; it is not going to like the tax measures he is going to bring in unless his oil blender can go to work and save him somehow by getting the billions of dollars of revenue he needs. From where? Is he going to take his blender out to the tar sands? Has the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources got some magic blender he intends to set up way out on the tar sands and start blending to get us the oil we need at a reasonable price?

The Minister of Finance is waiting because he is pinning his hopes on the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, and a more unlikely magician I never saw. "Mandrake the magician" has nothing on that gentleman. When Premier Lougheed gets through with him you will not be able to pick him up with tweezers. But he has to pull off this miracle. Because if you are not going to impose an excise tax on gasoline, which would have helped Canada, which would have helped conservation, which would have been the way the IMF recommended to the governments of the western world, and if you are not going to get the \$2.5 billion in revenue which a measure of that kind would produce, then the revenue has to be obtained from somewhere else. And as the President of the Treasury Board has said, the only way to bring down the deficit is to increase revenue.

● (1630)

So the Minister of Finance is not bringing in a budget. He does not want the nation to know where he stands. He does not

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want the nation to know what he is thinking. He does not want the nation to know what he intends to do. That is why he has not brought in a full budget or is not bringing in one in May. So in power the hon. gentlemen are doing the exact opposite to what they said they would do when they were out of power.

An hon. Member: What about the amendment?

Mr. Crosbie: I am coming to the amendment. When I come to it, I think the hon. member will support it.

An hon. Member: I would love to hear it.

Mr. Crosbie: You are going to hear it, believe me; you are going to be the first one to hear it.

I was talking about the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. He is a very strong and powerful minister; he is going to perform miracles by making Canada control its own economy. He is going to get back control of our own industry. He is going to do a mighty job, and we all wish him well with it. For 30 to 40 years his party allowed the control of the Canadian economy to go to the United States and to go everywhere. They did not care about who controlled the Canadian economy. Their policy from 1945 onward was to let it slip. They paid lip service to it in the last campaign, but now there is a mighty Samson who is going to wrestle back control of the Canadian economy into the hands of Canadians. Some hope! I wish him well, if he ever attempts it. Here is what the member said as reported at page 2299 of *Hansard*, when he was discussing my budget:

Essentially this budget hits the little guy in this country.

The tears were starting to trickle down his cheeks, I remember. He continued:

If the little guy decides to have a smoke or a drink to try to find some solace from the impact of this Conservative budget, he will still be reminded of its unfair impact.

That was what he said last December 12. What did the Minister of Finance do, his colleague on the treasury benches just down from him two seats? I think the seating is the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pepin), and then the Prime Minister, who says that the economy is very healthy. No, it is the Minister of Finance and then the Prime Minister; he is just down one seat. The Minister of Finance is within talking distance of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. What did the Minister of Finance do a week ago today? He brought in a budget hitting the little guys in the country, just what we were told last December 12 not to do. If that little guy decides to have a smoke or a drink to try to find some solace from the document brought in by the Minister of Finance of the Liberal government, he is going to find that the price of his cigarettes is up, like the cost of his tobacco, his wine, his beer and his hard liquor. That is exactly what the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce as finance critic last December 12 opposed; he got up in this chamber and opposed it.

Well, I will not belabour the point. It is hypocrisy, of course, complete and utter hypocrisy. It does not matter whether it