

*The Budget—Mr. Hopkins*

But if the price of copper continues to rise their copper operations will prosper, and there will be no difficulty. However, I am fearful that in certain cases if EGMA is discontinued their copper operations will also come to a stop. I think that the Minister of Finance should have made a reference to this matter in his budget. The EGMA, which is renewed every three years, is destined to be retired at the end of this year unless relieved. Numerous task forces have been looking at this whole problem, including one interdepartmental task force, and another task force within the Department of Mines, Energy and Resources. The municipalities, mining communities and mining companies are all afraid that this will mean the end of gold mining in Canada. I think the minister had an obligation to refer to the matter in the budget so that an opportunity could have been afforded to those concerned to act before the deadline arises. The workers in the maritime coal mines, in the Dunlop Company and in other enterprises, have made pleas for assistance in the hope that action can be taken on their behalf by municipalities and Canadian citizens.

● (5:30 p.m.)

**Mr. Leonard Hopkins (Renfrew North):** Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to participate in this budget debate because I believe in the age old theory that a nation's possibilities are always far larger than its problems. The day we lose sight of this in this House or country it will be a bad one for this nation and its people. I think it is good that we should rise in this House, complain about our problems and tell the people in this House and the country about those problems. It is also good for us to tell the people of this country that some good things are being done. The story should not be one sided. I think the news media has a great responsibility in balancing both sides of the story.

**Mr. Peters:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Hopkins:** May I quote a sentence from the writings of Alfred North Whitehead, who said:

The love of humanity as such is mitigated by violent dislike of the next-door neighbour.

Sometimes in this chamber we seem to fight in our debates, occasionally, with members across the floor. Sometimes the people may think that we dislike our neighbours in the House very much. Those impressions are not always true. Let it be said that there is a

[Mr. Peters.]

reasonably good rapport among hon. members on all sides of this House. In the last four years, many items of legislation have been brought before the House and, on looking back, it is sometimes difficult to say whether one has achieved anything. It ought to be remembered that much is accomplished here in committee meetings, through consultations with ministers, and through discussions with other hon. members of this House.

One of the good things that happened last summer was the announcement by the Department of National Defence that the old H hut, the only H hut still left at CFB, Petawawa, was to be torn down. The hut was the military hospital. If any member of the armed forces was not depressed when he entered the hut he certainly was when he left it. The new hospital is in the process of being built and will be ready soon. The Minister of National Defence (Mr. Cadieux) is to be congratulated for putting this project through.

Another thing I have been fighting for in the House and outside it, throughout my riding and on the news media is the regional development of the Upper Ottawa Valley. My colleague for Lanark and Renfrew (Mr. McBride) teamed with me in the House and sponsored a resolution asking for something to be done. By utilizing such tactics hon. members can hammer away with their demands for their areas. They illuminate the problems of their constituents. A similar procedure is used by hon. members from all parts of the country, from the Maritimes, the Prairies, and by those representing fishermen and farmers. There is absolutely nothing wrong with such procedures. I say that once you start a fight you should continue it.

On December 15, 1969, in speaking on the resolution sponsored by the hon. member for Lanark and Renfrew, I said in part as reported at page 1986 of *Hansard*:

I can say in all sincerity that as long as I am a member of this House representing an Ottawa Valley constituency, come what may I shall be fighting the battle for designation and improvement plans for this area.

I want to say on behalf of the people of the Upper Ottawa Valley, and my colleague for Lanark and Renfrew will go along with me, that we appreciate the action taken by the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Marchand) in including our area in the 22 special areas of this country that have been listed. The designation is very important to us because, as you know sir, we have experienced some tragedy. There have been fires in the area. We have not benefited