

will the minister at an early date tell the house (1) why this loan was refused in these times of dangerous fuel shortage; (2) what the government is doing to enable this coal company and any other coal company similarly situated to obtain the financial assistance necessary to increase production of coal?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. I would ask the hon. gentleman to put his question, which is a lengthy one, on the order paper.

[Later]:

Mr. BLACKMORE: Mr. Speaker, shall we get an answer from the Minister of Finance with respect to these questions?

Mr. SPEAKER: I have asked the hon. member to put his question, since it is a lengthy one, on the order paper.

THE BUDGET

DEBATE ON THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

The house resumed from Wednesday, July 10, consideration of the motion of Right Hon. J. L. Ilsley (Minister of Finance) that Mr. Speaker do now leave the chair for the house to go into committee of ways and means, and the amendment thereto of Mr. Macdonnell, and the amendment to the amendment of Mr. MacInnis.

Mr. MARCEL BOIVIN (Shefford) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, since the first session of the 20th Parliament was convened, the electors of the constituency which I have the honour of representing carefully followed the various reports on the House of Commons appearing in the newspapers and probably wondered, rightly so, when their member would rise to speak in this chamber. The moment, so long-awaited by many is finally at hand, and since the electoral division which I represent is mostly French-Canadian, I will take the liberty of speaking in their language, which is also mine, that is to say, in my beloved mother tongue.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. BOIVIN: Since coming here, I have learned that a member of the Liberal party has a right to his opinions and convictions—

Mr. GAUTHIER (Portneuf): Hear, hear!

Mr. BOIVIN: —in that case, it may well be that I shall differ with some of my colleagues, but as I am aware of my rights, I consider it my duty, with reference to the budget now before the house, to express my opinion shared, I might add, by a large section of my constituency.

[Mr. Blackmore.]

The budget is the most important item and if discussion of its provisions were left only to the financial experts of the house, the debate would soon end and it would be carried in no time.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. BOIVIN: May I at the outset congratulate the Right Hon. the Minister of Finance (Mr. Ilsley) for his masterly budget speech and for the manner in which he has accomplished such a thankless task, although he has been in poor health during the last six years.

After taking cognizance of the real meaning of the budget and in view of the confidence which our constituents have placed in each one of us, I consider that it is our duty, whoever we may be, to express our views. Some people claim that speeches delivered in this house are not very effective. I believe that eventually they will change their minds for in my opinion those speeches have always received and will continue to receive consideration. Further they are placed in the official records of the house in support of our statements and show whether we are right or wrong.

I have listened carefully to the mover of the address in reply to the speech from the throne, my colleague from St. Boniface (Mr. Viau); may I digress here to say that bishop Cabana of St. Boniface is a native son of Granby, and the constituency which I have the honour to represent is proud of him. I have also listened carefully to the seconder of the address, the hon. member for Queens-Lunenburg (Mr. Winters). You will agree with me that both did their work with the same mastery and ability as their predecessors of the first session and one might have been led to believe that they had several years of experience in parliament.

Lord Athlone's message on the occasion of the opening of the second session, that is shortly before his departure, was followed with interest and even read over again by the members of the house following its publication. As I read it later, I shall take the liberty of referring to it when I conclude my remarks.

Mr. Speaker, since your appointment to that office, several of my colleagues have spoken in this house for the first time, either in reply to the speech from the throne or on various other matters.

You have, more than anyone else, been in a position, especially in view of your experience in the Legislative Assembly and the House of Commons, to appreciate their tact in fulfilling such an arduous task, and those are moments which remain forever in the