

The Budget—Mr. Pepin

Soviet tanks. They are no longer allowed to recover their freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I warn not only parliament but the Canadian people against this. If some day we lose our freedom, we will never be able to recover it. We will be treated in exactly the same manner as the individual is treated in communist or socialist countries.

In my opinion, it is to the interest of the Canadian legislator to take a stand and to act with the aim of serving the best interests of the human being. We must move ahead, pass laws, introduce budgets, not only budgets which are generous when wars, killings and revolutions are involved, but generous budgets conceived in time of peace to preserve justice, law and order.

In this manner, we could achieve economic stability and personal freedom.

• (1740)

[English]

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

Mr. Speaker: Before I call on the minister, it is my duty to bring to the attention of the House that the following matters will be considered at the time of adjournment tonight: the hon. member for Dartmouth-Halifax East (Mr. Forrestall)—National Defence; the hon. member for Fraser Valley West (Mr. Rose)—Housing; the hon. member for Athabasca (Mr. Yewchuk)—Grain.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

THE BUDGET

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance) that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government, the amendment thereto of Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West) and the amendment to the amendment of Mr. Saltzman.

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I did listen with great interest to the speeches that were made this afternoon, but before going any further, I want to say how much the remarks of the hon. member for Waterloo (Mr. Saltzman) astonished me.

Let me tell you, because I don't want him to be judged solely on some comments he made this afternoon, that, in private, he is usually quite humble and even very kind. And this is contrary to the impression he sometimes gives to the House, where he assumes the role of a Moses, entrusted with the safekeeping of the Tables of the Law.

As far as I am concerned, I don't mind being told that I am not very clever, but to be told that I am in the pay of business, any business, that, Mr. Speaker, does not go down very well. In my opinion, the remarks made this afternoon by the hon. member were rather uncalled for. I wanted to say it before carrying on with my comments.

Mr. Speaker, if I had not committed myself to report to the House on the price of cars and on the DISC program, I would have had the time to describe how important the manufacturing sector is to our economy, to our rate of employment and mainly to the increase of our exports. Perhaps the House is aware that 75 per cent of Canadian exports originate in the sector which the Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) saw fit in his wisdom—and I quite agree with him—to grant special consideration in his financial statement.

I could also have explained further why the Minister of Finance has decided to help this particular sector, the reasons being, among others, tied in with international trade. Most if not all of our important international competitors, all the major industrialized countries, have recently taken some measures to favour their manufacturing sector.

Mr. Speaker, some balance had to be re-established and the budget has done that, I think, in a way that was needed. Some people have not yet understood this. It seems to me that it is simple enough to understand, when we consider the changes that have taken place in the world of international trade, when we consider, for example, the support, that the European Community, Japan and very recently the United States—especially through the DISC program—and the governments of the industrialized countries give to their manufacturing sector. I for one feel that it would not have been rational not to do as much in Canada. We would have put ourselves in a position which would have brought great harm to us in the future.

All the people who say that nothing in this budget aims at increasing employment should be aware of the fact that the measures introduced by the Minister of Finance have consolidated and secured many positions presently existing in the sector of manufacturing. As far as I am concerned, I think that these measures will also have the effect of creating a good number of other jobs in the near future.

Mr. Speaker, if I had enough time—and I don't—I would have emphasized the contribution of this budget to the development of an industrial strategy which better meets the needs of the 70's. This budget brings a solution to a certain amount of problems which have been put forward very often by some industrial sectors whose leaders explained to us the very particular difficulties they had to cope with.

I believe as well that the budget will pave the way for a number of projects which had been shelved, delayed or considered as unfeasible at this time, very often as a result of the level of taxation which prevails in Canada.

A number of people suggested, this afternoon in particular, that tax reductions should have favoured personal rather than corporate income tax. Mr. Speaker, I ask them to think it over, for the consumer demand is already