

The Budget—Hon. Marcel Lambert

Moores	Scott
Muir (Lisgar)	Skoberg
Nesbitt	Skoreyko
Noble	Stanfield
Paproski	Stewart (Marquette)
Peddle	Tétrault
Peters	Thomas (Moncton)
Ricard	Thompson (Red Deer)
Ritchie	Thomson (Battleford-Kindersley)
Rondeau	Valade
Rose	Winch
Rynard	Woolliams—78.
Saltsman	
Schumacher	

Mr. Speaker: I declare the motion carried.

Bill read the third time and passed.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, there have been certain discussions among the various groups in the house and I think agreement might be found for a special order today dealing with the question of the budget, namely, that for the purposes of section 2 of standing order 58, upon the calling of government order No. 2, that is, the budget debate, as the second item of government business later this day this day's sitting shall be counted as the first of the six allotted days for the said debate, and that the provisions of standing order 15(4) shall apply to suspend the hour provided for the consideration of private members' business this day. If that is agreeable to the house generally I think we might make an order of the house to that effect, and after the order is made then call item No. 2 on today's order paper.

Mr. Speaker: Is this agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: It is so ordered.

THE BUDGET**ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE**

The house resumed, from Tuesday, October 22, consideration of the motion (page 1677) of Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance) that Mr. Speaker do now leave the chair for the house to go into committee of ways and means.

• (4:40 p.m.)

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, on October 22 we listened for some considerable length of time to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson) make what should be an annual analysis in the budget of

[Mr. Speaker.]

the financial state of the country. Usually this is made after careful preparation. We in the opposition merely get the opportunity of seeing the text of his remarks as he delivers it, and there is certain difficulty in replying to a budget speech. We can only comment on those features of it that are patently self-evident. For instance, the 2 per cent across the board increase in income tax with a ceiling of \$120 is one of those features. Time has provided us with the opportunity of looking at the fine print of the budget and also to hear some of the minister's extra-curricular remarks in respect of the budget and the preparation thereof.

Let me say at the outset, having now examined the budget in detail and having heard some of the unofficial explanations, that I do not take back one word of what I have said about the budget. In fact, one should underline the criticisms that were advanced. As a matter of fact, I would not now be quite so generous with some of the complimentary remarks I made when dealing with the changes in the estate tax and the gift tax. We have now had an opportunity to see the fine print in this respect, and I must say the minister has dealt a very serious blow to a number of principles in relation to estate tax. He has now made generosity very onerous in so far as gifts are concerned.

I do not intend to deal with all the aspects of the budget. Many of my colleagues have undertaken a study of particular phases of it and in the next few days during the budget debate they will develop these criticisms.

The salient fact which came to light in the budget was the lack of credibility on the part of the government in respect of the financial position of the country. I must say now, after considering it for many days, that the government's position is no more credible than it was on budget night, and no degree of explanation can make it any better.

We all know that the purpose of the budget is to present an analysis of the financial position of the country and the financial status of the government. It must be made after an analysis of the problems and the options open to the government to deal with such problems. The budget develops the means chosen by the government to deal with those problems and carry out government programs.

How does this budget measure up? I put it to hon. members that outside of imposing the heaviest increase in peacetime taxes in Canada, it will be a dismal failure. I would hazard a prediction at this time that within