

*The Budget—Mr. Murphy*

I am constantly amazed at how much energy the Liberal Party devotes in trying to mollify certain regions of this country—with little success. The reason is that they ignore some of the obvious solutions which have been sitting in front of their noses for some time. Let me use the infamous SYSCO example. This is not the first time my party has brought this matter up in the House. Why should the residents of the Atlantic region believe Liberal promises about an extension of the natural gas pipeline to the maritimes, a coal conversion program or a DREE program targeted at underdeveloped regions when the Liberals cannot even make good on the promises they have made to provide funds to the ailing Sydney Steel Corporation? It is a company which is already operating in this region, and one which would like to continue operating there. It is a company which is providing employment for a lot of people in Cape Breton. Although the Minister of Finance himself comes from that region they cannot get money from the Liberal government. They have been given promises year after year. These are promises which the parliamentary secretary to the DREE minister, a member of Parliament from that region, has called peanuts. But even those peanuts will not be delivered. They have gone the same way as the peanut farmer from the United States.

It is time now for the government to keep that particular election promise. They have to modernize Sysco in order to produce the jobs needed there and to give Atlantic Canadians the feeling that this government does care—not just at election time but throughout the year. There is nothing in this budget to indicate that there is any care. Again, there is no promise for Sysco. There is no promise for the people of Sydney.

There are other issues of concern to the Atlantic region which should be discussed during this budget debate. However, I recognize that there is little time left and there is one further item I would like to mention at this time. This budget has failed to make any provisions for the re-establishment of the strong and viable Canadian merchant marine. I had the opportunity to visit Saint John, New Brunswick recently in company with a committee of the NDP caucus concerned with occupational health and safety. I visited the drydocks in Saint John and I was impressed with what can be done in Canada. We, in Canada, need ships to carry our goods to other countries. I use as an example the port of Churchill in my own riding. Grain leaves the port of Churchill in foreign ships. They are mostly Polish ships. Yet sometimes we have had to wait three or four weeks after the season opens for one of those ships to arrive. If we were building our ships in Canada for a Canadian merchant marine this would not be a problem. Again, examining the budget, we find there is nothing there to establish a merchant marine. The Liberal government has failed to provide any economic leadership for Canada or, specifically, for the Atlantic region. We need those ships. We can build them here. The budget does nothing to assist the development of this very important industry.

In the few minutes which remain for me to speak I would like to address the members opposite, the rubber stamps of the House of Commons. I ask them to consider this budget quite

seriously and look beyond the words of the hon. member for Cape Breton Highlands-Canso and his budget. Look beyond the press releases which the Liberal party has put out. Look at the budget and the decline of Canada's economy. Look at what Liberal governments have done to Canada. Year after year we have had promises from this government. Year after year they have come up with new, improved brands of soap. When you take a look at it, it is really no different from the Crosbie budget. It is in a much better package. It is new and improved; the soap looks better on the outside but it is the same old suds underneath.

If members opposite, especially those from Atlantic Canada, Quebec, Ontario and the two lonely Liberals from the west, have any concern for what is happening in Canada, then they will not support the budget when the vote is taken in a few minutes. They will vote with their conscience on an issue of this nature so that ten years down the road we will not have another bunch of Liberals in government saying that if they had done it back then we would not face these problems today.

The energy minister has said that a partly nationalized oil industry would not have been acceptable to many Canadians ten years ago. So successive Liberal governments waited until the oil was gone, then they moved in, or announced that they would move in some day.

A number of private corporations in our country, especially in the resource extraction industry, have received government help through the provision of generous tax loopholes. Will the same thing happen with those industries once the nickel and iron is gone? Will the government step in then, or will they make announcements at that time of intention to step in and provide aid? By then, of course, they might do so. By the time the resources and jobs have gone, the Liberal government will make its move. Or it will put out the propaganda and the fancy hoopla saying they are going to move against these multinationals some time in the future.

In the cases of Sysco, Devco, Chrysler, de Havilland, Massey-Ferguson and others the government has allowed the privateers to take profits. But the government rushes to the rescue when problems get serious. If the government intends to act in these areas let it act now. Let the backbenchers at their caucus meeting tomorrow make the government act. Do not sit back and say that because those who sit in front are the ministers, the government, you will do what they say—stamp, stamp. Make your government work!

In every election campaign across this country Liberal candidates say the voters need somebody on the government side to make sure things will happen. They say, maybe you will get a DREE grant or some other grant. Mr. Speaker, they cannot do anything to make this cabinet act in a more responsible manner than the members of the official opposition. But we have the advantage of being able to get up here and point out the errors of the party opposite and the problems this country faces. We can suggest alternatives and members across the way can say nothing. Of course, when the vote is taken tonight they will get up in turn, nod in agreement and baa like sheep.