

The Budget—Mr. Caron

(Translation):

That is the view expressed by this openly Conservative paper about the present minister.

I could go on and on like this quoting newspaper articles from responsible editors who give serious thought to such matters. But I see that my time is running short. Allow me to say, however, that on leaving this house, we wondered how we should describe the baby budget. As he was leaving the house on budget night, a young man said: "It is a bubble gum budget." That would no doubt be a proper expression, as the hon. member for Roberval (Mr. Tremblay) would say. It does really describe the budget. What is bubble gum? Something that is chewed, that is blown out and then gets you all sticky. That is what remains of the budget.

Mr. Tremblay: It describes Mr. Lesage's budget.

Mr. Caron: The hon. member for Roberval is often sticky.

Mr. Tremblay: It is an accurate description of Mr. Lesage's budget.

Mr. Caron: Mr. Speaker, what is provided in the budget for the unemployed? Nothing at all. Nothing in the budget is likely to help the jobless right now.

Oh, I admit that there are certain long term measures which could pave the way for things to be done in two, three, four or even five years. But we find absolutely nothing to deal with the present situation.

Here is an excerpt taken from an editorial which appeared in the *Gazette* on December 8, prior to this baby budget:

(Text):

In the same way—

(Translation):

They were saying that the Liberals were responsible for the unemployment situation, adding:

(Text):

In the same way, the Progressive Conservatives, now in power, will be weighed in the balance, not on the dismal argument whether they brought the depression in with them, but whether they are prepared to take the measures that the new conditions demand. Emergency measures are all very well in their way, as a provision of immediate relief. But the real test is whether the tax structure, and the economic policies generally, can be remoulded in time to give Canada a sound economic footing in a world that is far rougher to walk in.

(Translation):

This accurately describes the situation. The government is judged not by what it says but by its actions. So far, this government has not done anything. Yet for the

past three years we have spent our time telling the government what to do and how to do it. In fact, at one time the hon. member for Essex East (Mr. Martin) has indicated no less than ten measures and we have repeatedly recalled at least twenty five such measures but the minister always came back with the same answer: we have no unemployment problem. This is only temporary. Come spring and the sun will take care of it all.

The government has always refused to hear the real facts and it has always shut its mind to it, which explains our record unemployment. If the Liberal party had not established the unemployment insurance to relieve the distress of the people, we would be worse off than we were under the Tory government of 1930-35.

Mr. Speaker, the minister says that there is an end to everything and that everything will turn out right. We say that there is no ending in sight and that nothing will turn out right unless the government has courage enough to take such actions as will help to correct the situation.

Liberals are accused from different quarters of going about carrying mourning bands and of being calamity howlers. The Associate Minister of National Defence (Mr. Sevigny) was saying somewhere near Montreal that unemployment was a Liberal legacy. And that, after three and a half years. He is now speaking like Mr. Bennett in 1934. Well, if unemployment has been inherited, are they not intelligent enough and have they not the qualified men to find a solution to this problem that faces Canada today?

When in Canada the number of unemployed increases, and the increase is tremendous—I see some hon. members smiling, for example the hon. member for Roberval (Mr. Tremblay) a man of letters but a lesser mind—

Mr. Tremblay: The hon. member for Hull knows enough to spell the word stupid.

Mr. Caron: What is there to say about that statement from the Associate Minister of National Defence which is as childish as the one from the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Hees) who said that, after the convention, the Liberal party would be ready to take the New Party's place. Newspapers, even Conservative newspapers, answered him that it was all nonsense. What a way to work at correcting the situation.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, a Conservative government means poverty, unemployment, tottering economy. As the English say: "Conservative times, hard times". It is always the same thing.