

That encouragement is vital and will lead to our economy being strong.

I think the accelerated capital cost allowances will induce people to begin businesses because they will know that certain capital assets can be written off quickly. At the same time, I hope this measure will not mean that the people who need money most will not be able to get it. I shall be watching what happens. I do not think that measure will answer all the problems of small businesses. It is an aid for small businesses. I look forward to more help being brought forward. I insist on it. I shall expect more measures to be announced by the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. I will be waiting for the announcements. I am impatient for them. If enough is not done, I will not be satisfied and will complain.

Let us support good measures and put away our crying-towels. We expect measures to be introduced that are good, and in the future we shall expect better measures. Let us not play politics with an economy which is under attack even from its best friends. We must respond flexibly in this House and give a fighting chance to our businessmen. It is our responsibility to give them a break. If you want to raise taxes in the long run, that is great; but let them make enough money before we start taxing it. If they do not make it, we cannot tax it.

• (1750)

Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, I must say that the last speech was of a different tone than that of the leader of the New Democratic Party. However, being as respectful as I can, I do not think one added much more than the other to the central issue the House has to face on the motion before it.

There has been a great deal of talk about the government having won a vote of confidence. There has been a great deal of talk, especially from the government side, about the government having the confidence of the House. However, what everybody has missed is the real question: Has the government got the confidence of the country on these economic matters? There is a very substantial body of evidence to indicate that it has not. That is why this motion is before the House—not for reasons of narrow expediency, because one party is going to keep the other in power. This motion is before the House because there is grave doubt about whether the government has the confidence of the country. I wish to give some examples. The day after the budget was presented there was a reaction in the Vancouver newspapers. The president of the B.C. Federation of Labour said:

Translating the budget into jobs still leaves—

I wish to emphasize this phrase.

—a great credibility gap . . .

The trade union movement and the public have a right to be sceptical about the forecast of job-producing. We have had a couple of budgets and all that has happened is a worsening of the unemployment situation when we were told there would be more jobs.

That is a great indication of confidence in the government! Senator Edward Lawson, the international vice-president of the Teamsters had this to say:

Effect of Budgetary Proposals

—I can't imagine just how this budget will really create 300,000 new jobs—

He went on to say the inflation would still be there. He also said:

So the unions will still have to continue negotiating wage increases to keep pace with the inflationary spiral—

That is another indication of confidence in the government. Jim Kinnaird, president of the B.C. and Yukon Building Trades Council, said:

—I am sceptical about the job-producing ability of the budget—

Confidence in the government? It did not stop there. Mr. Michael Ryan had this to say:

I see very little in the budget that is directly beneficial to the Canadian economy. Specifically, there is nothing in it that would spur on employment and we are encouraging purchases of foreign goods by reducing tariffs.

Mr. Ed Scholz, president of the B.C. and Yukon Chamber of Mines, said:

—the budget does not contain “very much that will help to reduce unemployment.”

When we ask the question, how much confidence has the country in the government, we have to look at the evidence. It does not matter what happens in this House on matters of short-term expediency or perhaps long-term expediency, depending on their wishes and desires. The day after the budget was presented, an article appeared in the *Toronto Star* entitled “Less here than meets the eye”. Some potent comments were made. This is the way one of the largest newspapers in the country looked at the situation. This paper had always been a great supporter of the government party. It saw that the problems of the country were more important than its traditional allegiance to a political party. My hon. friends did not want to make any reference to it. I quote from the article:

There are two key questions about the budget. What does it do to reduce unemployment? What does it do to curb inflation? The short answer to both is: Not enough.

The first problem is that given Canada's severe unemployment problem there is not enough real stimulation of the economy.

Later it states:

—the real level of economic stimulation remains unchanged.

That is a considered comment which represents a great number of people in the constituency. In the past week some hon. members of two parties in particular forgot that when they talked about having the confidence of the House. The *Toronto Star* article said that the Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) is complacent about inflation. It went on to say something which members opposite and members of the New Democratic Party do not want to hear but which the people of Canada are obviously interested in hearing. I quote:

Only mandatory controls could now bring costs and prices under control—

One could say, “We do not want to listen to a newspaper that after 50 or 60 years decided not to support us,” and that that paper could not possibly represent the views and thinking of the Canadian public. If you do not believe it, that is fine with us. You will find out, no doubt at your peril, that some of the comments being made are very similar to those that were made during the election cam-