

*The Budget—Mr. Gottselig*

with the Town of Simpson, south through Imperial, Holdfast and down to Lumsden, to within 10 miles of the capital City of Regina. The Trans-Canada Highway borders the City of Moose Jaw. Another important highway is No. 11 which runs from Regina to Saskatoon, through towns such as Craik, Davidson, which is known as the midway town, and Hanley.

Many of these towns and villages have annual summer events such as the Davidson Kinsmen Rodeo or the Central Butte Fair. However, the most widely known event in the province is the Moose Jaw Kinsmen International Band Festival, which is the largest band festival in North America. This three-day event, held annually on the May long weekend, celebrated its thirty-sixth anniversary this year and was the biggest and best ever. From a humble beginning with 12 bands, it has grown to over 125 bands with over 7,000 competing members. In addition, there were 25 choral groups and 15 field marching competitions. Bands were in attendance from Ontario to British Columbia, as well as many from the northern states. One band was in attendance from Switzerland.

Another well-known location in my constituency is the Gardiner Dam. This is one of the largest earth filled dams in the world. It is over 200 feet in height and stretches some three miles across the South Saskatchewan Valley. The lake formed by the dam is rightly named in honour of the late Right Hon. John Diefenbaker who had the foresight to commence construction of the dam in 1958 when he was Prime Minister. It was only after many years of work and study by many groups and individuals that the project finally became a reality. Much of the credit for the construction of the dam must also be given to the late Dr. Bill Tufts who practised medicine at Outlook for many years. Throughout the dustbowl years he recognized the need for irrigation and worked tirelessly for the project until it became a reality.

To give some idea of the importance of the dam, I should like to point out that approximately one half the irrigated acreage in Saskatchewan uses water either directly from Lake Diefenbaker itself or from adjoining water supply systems. The Town of Outlook where I make my home is known as the irrigation capital of Saskatchewan. It is the approximate geographical centre of this irrigation area. Irrigation has allowed farmers to grow a wide variety of new crops and to ensure that there will always be a good supply of fodder and grain for livestock feed even in years when we have severe drought, such as the one we experienced last summer.

In addition to irrigation, the dam is an important source of power for the province and recreation for many residents of the area. There are many provincial parks and cottage developments along the shores of Lake Diefenbaker. Water is also diverted into the Qu'Appelle River system which goes to Buffalo Pound Reservoir which in turn supplies water to the cities of Moose Jaw and Regina.

We have an abundance of migratory game birds throughout the constituency as well as good populations of white tail and mule deer which provide excellent hunting each fall.

The entire area has a solid agricultural base, and the people have become accustomed to the ups and downs of a farm

economy that is influenced to such a large degree by weather. Lack of rain during the growing season is one of the most serious concerns of the residents of my constituency. We realize that we cannot control the weather. However, another concern had been growing in recent years about the uncaring federal Government. The fiscal mismanagement of the previous Liberal Government has greatly damaged the economy of Canada, and nowhere was this more evident than in the west.

The Liberal Party was unable to elect a representative from the area west of Winnipeg and, as a result, we had no one but a tired old Senator to speak for us at the decision-making level. We now have strong voices at this level as well as strong support on the back-benches. According to the media I am a back-bencher and far removed from the decision-making process. However, I do have a chance to put forth my ideas. I can assure my constituents that the Ministers of our Government listen and respond to our concerns.

We in the Conservative Party were elected to make a fundamental change in the style of government. This Budget will bring about that change in three vital areas. First, it will encourage the private initiative of individual Canadians and they, not the Government, will decide what is best. We must manage Government more effectively. We must cut waste and trim away the fat. By putting our own house in order, we will create a healthier and more effective private sector.

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Finally, we must control the spiralling national debt. We all know that we cannot borrow our way out of this deficit. The Liberals tried that for too long—with disastrous results. We have only to look at our own operations, be they running a home, a farm or a business, to see that we cannot spend more than we take in. If we, as individual Canadians, spent one-third of our income to service our debt, we know only too well what the result would be.

This Budget was formulated by the Minister after the most extensive pre-budget consultations in history. We consulted with Canadians from all walks of life and from coast to coast. As a result, we have a Budget which reflects and addresses the concerns of all Canadians.

The main thrust of the Budget is to encourage the small business sector to expand and to create those permanent jobs which are required for all Canadians. The previous Government used a band-aid approach to create jobs through make-work programs—jobs that got people off the unemployment insurance rolls long enough to qualify them for unemployment insurance benefits again. That was no solution. It was a plan designed and administered by bureaucrats because the Government was bankrupt of ideas as well.

This Budget is responsible. It will be effective. Most of all, it is fair. As a Government, we have met the challenge of the 1980s head on. We have set a new course. We have reflected faith in the drive and the ingenuity of Canadians to seize the opportunities to invest in their own futures. We are saying clearly to entrepreneurial-spirited Canadians that, once more,