

The Budget—Mr. Grégoire

Fifty cents were paid in New Brunswick for every apple-tree that was cut down. And the Minister of Finance says he will provide special incentives to business to defer capital investments.

I am warning the Minister of Finance that I intend to defer some business investments I expected to make next year; I shall only make them 25 years from now. Then the minister can give me those special incentives. This reminds me of the farmer who wrote the minister of finance 30 years ago and told him: You offer \$2 for each piglet which is prevented from being born. Inasmuch as 3,000 piglets have not been born on my farm this year, please send me \$6,000. That is the way things were being done during the depression years. Incentives were provided to stave off production, when people were starving to death. Now, the minister is coming back with the same old proposal, providing special incentives to defer business investments, to encourage people to stop producing and investing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a return to medieval, obsolete methods.

How much will the Minister of Finance pay? He did not say. Will he provide a sizeable incentive to prevent investments? Can he tell us what will be those special incentives to prevent us from investing? The minister might tell us what kind of special incentives he will provide or better still, what kind of bonus those who will cut down production or refrain from expanding industry may expect.

As things stand, Mr. Speaker, one wonders whether our Minister of Finance believes he is living in the 17th or 18th century. You know, those backward economists remind me of the farmer who was driving his ox-cart loaded with two or three cords of wood. Arriving in town, he saw a sign saying: Speed—30 mph. He said to his ox: "Let's get out of here, we cannot go that fast." Some economists are like that, Mr. Speaker, and in this century, they cannot keep up with progress.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rinfret): Order. I regret to interrupt the hon. member but since speeches on the budget are limited to 30 minutes, under the rules, I must advise him that his time is up.

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that I was interrupted once or twice, may I be given a minute to finish my remarks.

23033—237

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rinfret): Order. I regard, I must say to the hon. member that the chair, the deputies, and the officials of the house without mentioning the three clocks around us, have noted the time taken by the Minister of Finance while he interrupted the hon. member two or three times.

I may ask if it is the pleasure of the house to allow the hon. member to continue his remarks.

Some hon. Members: Go ahead.

An hon. Member: Let him speak of federal matters.

[*English*]

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, perhaps the hon. gentleman might at least finish his story.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rinfret): Order. Do I understand that the hon. members agree to allow the hon. member for Lapointe to finish his remarks?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker, I shall only take two or three minutes, since the Minister of Finance wanted me to finish my story and I have done so.

All economists today are incapable of adapting themselves to progress and to the age of automation in which we live. If the Minister of Finance really wanted to be progressive, he would devise a system other than the present one and would stop offering incentives to cut down production; on the contrary, he would give special encouragement to producers.

That is why I can only blame him for offering special incentives to delay the business worlds' capital expenditures.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I should like to say a word about the receipts for charitable donations which the minister mentioned in his speech when he said:

All charitable organizations will be asked to register and to file annual returns of information. Only donations to such registered charitable organizations will be permitted as deduction from income in future years.

I should like the minister to enlighten us on this subject. All charitable organizations will be asked to register; does this mean that all priests will have to register or will the cardinal of the Montreal diocese be able to