

The Budget—Mr. Whicher

today the corporation tax in England is about 36 per cent. That is what the socialist government is doing over there. The NDP should realize that corporations, like individuals, have to face competition and therefore should not be overtaxed.

Mr. Blackburn: Who is the prime minister of England today?

Mr. Whicher: The fact is that the interest paid by corporations is deductible. This should have been done a long time ago, but now it has been done by the Finance Minister. It is a wonderful thing so far as corporations are concerned.

If I wanted to be critical of the budget I would say that it is too bad the Minister of Finance could not have taken off the 11 per cent tax on building supplies. However, we appreciate the fact that it brings in a large sum of money, approximately \$300 million, and getting money such as that is not easy. As a matter of fact, I remember the time when a cabinet minister resigned over the government's housing policy, some members of the opposition, and indeed some members on our side of the House, criticized the government for its housing policy. All of us know that there are some people in Canada who have poor housing, housing that is not fit for human habitation. But let us remember something that has not been brought out, namely, that the housing in Canada is the best housing anywhere in the world.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Whicher: These are the things that we should be talking about. We should mention the fact that this coming year, in 1972, the government of Canada, through private organizations and through the National Housing Corporation, will build an extra 220,000 units. This is something of which the government should not be ashamed and which will benefit Canadians a great deal.

Every day we hear criticism of this Canada of ours. It almost makes a person sick. I say, go to Europe, go to Asia, go to the United States or to Australia, go where you want to and come back to your rec room and look at the map of Canada. There is not one single Canadian who has any pride in his heart who will not say that he is glad to be back home because this is the best place in the world in which to live. I have forgotten who wrote this poem but it comes to my mind now: breathes there the man with soul so dead, who never to himself has said, this is my own, my native land. I say to you that more Canadians should repeat those lines because we have something here of which we should be proud.

Of course, if you look at the whole of Canada you will find there are many things that are wrong. Look at the standard of living we have; it is the second best in the world. Look at the schools and hospitals that we have, and the many great buildings we have. I say that many of them would make Buckingham Palace look like a shack. Look at the way we look after our sick and our disabled. After many years, we have free hospitalization; we have free medical care across Canada. We have some of the greatest parks in the whole world. We even have

[Mr. Whicher.]

the freedom to criticize, although in many respects much of that criticism is irresponsible. This is a great country and more of us should stand up for it. More of us should appreciate the fact that over the years governments have done a reasonably good job, regardless of their political stripe. It is for all of us the best country in the world in which to live. In my opinion this budget which the Minister of Finance has introduced has made it even more so. As has been repeated many times, it has eliminated taxes for one million citizens in Canada, and I do not care whether that amounts to \$2 or \$100 per person. If you want to be fair, you should give credit to the government for that.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Whicher: If you are going to criticize when things are wrong, at least be man enough to give a loud hurra for you cannot shout for joy for a government that has eliminated taxes for so many people. If you are not able to jump for joy because of some physical disability, give one little hurra for the 4,700,000 people for whom the Minister of Finance has reduced taxes. After all, this was not done by the NDP or by the Progressive Conservatives. It was done by the man whom most of you have been criticizing for the past couple of years. Give him a pat on the back if you want to be fair.

There is one more thing to remember. The NDP Leader throws these figures around. He mentioned the figure five million as the number of people for whom personal income tax had been reduced or eliminated. To set the record straight, let me say that it is not five million at all, it is 5,700,000, and these people appreciate that reduction. Then we have a tax change of only 1 per cent for another two million people, and the tax is increased for 1,300,000. After much study and much deliberation by the Minister of Finance, his staff, the Standing Committee on Finance of the House of Commons and the Finance Committee of the Senate and, most of all, by the people of Canada, the Minister of Finance has done an excellent job. I will be most happy to support him when the vote comes.

• (4:10 p.m.)

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, having listened to the hon. member for Bruce (Mr. Whicher), all I can say is that he was prepared to show his willingness to spout off. I am very much impressed with the budget presented by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson), and particularly with the total over-all cash requirements that the government faces. According to my estimate, the government will have to borrow some \$417 million, and it also has a total of \$1,770,000,000 in commitments made within the last year that have not been covered, making a total of some \$2,200,000,000.

Mr. Mahoney: Tell us about Bill C-176.

Mr. Korchinski: Bill C-176 represents another area for which the government may have to find some money. This is money that the government will have to borrow on the open market. Where do we go from here?