

*Oral Questions*

Special Committee on the Constitution, the Solicitor General made a commitment on behalf of the Government that he would include property rights in Section 7 of the Charter, a commitment which was subsequently reneged upon because of opposition from the then NDP Government of Saskatchewan, a Government which has changed since that time.

Is the Government now prepared to recognize the heritage of those Canadians who carved homes and farms out of the wilderness, and put property rights in the Charter of Rights?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** The historic recollection of the Hon. Member is partially correct, Madam Speaker. It is true that we did not include property rights in Section 3—

**Mr. Epp:** You reneged.

**Mr. Trudeau:**—although they are included in the Canadian Bill of Rights, which applies to all federal areas of jurisdiction. We did not impose it on the Provinces, partly because of the opposition of the Government of Saskatchewan, but only partly, because there were at least five other Conservative Provinces which did not want that provision to be in the Bill of Rights.

However, to show that I am not always in disagreement with the Hon. Member, I will make an offer now which I hope that the Acting Leader of the Opposition will accept on behalf of his Party. If we can have all-Party agreement—I would not even say “all Party agreement”—I would say that if we can have agreement of the Conservative Party to introduce an amendment on property rights and to pass it in 24 hours, I will undertake to do that, to convince the Minister of Justice that it would be done. We have not been doing it, not so much for fear of the ex-Government of Saskatchewan but, rather, because we were afraid it might so discord with the Tory leaders of Tory Governments in the Provinces.

I make my offer on behalf of this Party. If the Conservative Party wants to undertake to pass it in all stages in one day, we will pass it before the end of June.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

## POSITION OF PROVINCES

**Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Madam Speaker, the Prime Minister should follow his own advice and not attempt to negotiate on the floor of the House of Commons.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. McGrath:** However, I will say this to him, that he will find that there will be a very reasonable disposition on the part of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition to do anything which would protect the right of Canadians to hold property under the Charter of Rights.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. McGrath:** Madam Speaker, the Prime Minister will know that the legislature of British Columbia, by unanimous resolution on September 21, passed just such a resolution. There are also such indications from the Province of Ontario. Indeed, if such a resolution is passed by the Parliament of Canada, I think the Prime Minister will find the necessary seven Provinces in agreement so that the heritage and the right of Canadians to hold property can be protected, because, as the Prime Minister knows, this protection in the Diefenbaker Bill of Rights does not apply to the provincial jurisdiction.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member has reinforced my point. It applies to the federal jurisdiction. Therefore, insofar as this Government and this Parliament are concerned, Canadians are completely protected as to their property rights. The reason they are not protected in the Provinces is because there has been provincial opposition. The Hon. Member predicts that we will have seven Provinces joining. Let us put them to the test. Let us get agreement from that Party to support this Party, to do it all in one day and to pass a House order, and then it will be done. Madam Speaker, we are waiting for confirmation of that from the House Leader on the other side.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Riis:** So much for provincial rights, Mr. Prime Minister.

**Miss MacDonald:** You're just a year late, as usual.

\* \* \*

## FINANCE

## MINISTER'S APPROACH TO PREPARATION OF BUDGET

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap):** On this budget eve, I suspect that many Canadians are feeling very edgy, wondering what the Minister of Finance has in store for them or what he plans to do to them. The last budget blamed the people of Canada for a large part of our problem by saying they were too hopeful, too optimistic, that they were spending too much, that their expectations were too high. More recently, we have seen a complete flip-flop, saying that it is time to get confidence going up once again, that our expectations are not too high, that the Government wants people to be spending more of their money on goods and services.

Will the Minister of Finance agree to stop this flip-flopping, this dancing around, and assure the House that the budget shoes he purchased are not dancing slippers—

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** They're Gucci boots.

**Mr. Riis:**—but in fact are good, sound, strong, Canadian made work boots, so that he can stand in his place and start providing some direction for the people of Canada, as opposed to this contradictory advice?

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** They're Hush Puppies.