

The Budget—Mr. Orlikow

played from the present 50 per cent, under the provisions of the Canada assistance plan, to 65 per cent. Not only would this be fair because the cities simply cannot afford the cost of welfare, but also because the unemployment we are faced with today has been brought about to a very large extent by the deliberate policy of the federal government.

Third, I propose that housing programs should be increased immediately. The minister in charge of housing made a speech which sounded very well yesterday. He called on the provinces to get going, to move into the field of housing and, particularly, into the field of public housing. My own province of Manitoba came to the federal government, to the minister and to Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation with a program for public housing which is to cost \$55 million. What happened? The words of the minister yesterday were coated in honey, but what are the cold, hard facts? When the province of Manitoba asked for \$55 million, they were sent home with \$31 million. Theirs was the kind of request for which the minister was calling yesterday, and yet it was reduced by 40 per cent. I suggest that that is not good enough. I suggest to the minister that he should look very carefully at extending the provisions of the National Housing Act so that loans can be made available for the rehabilitation of present housing stocks. Surely, we have learned enough by now, on the basis of past experience that we do not want to simply bulldoze the existing housing stock, much of it in good shape and simply needing some rehabilitation.

Fourth, I propose that the Minister of Finance give immediate favourable consideration to removing the 3 per cent surtax on income tax. Such a move would immediately put spending power into the hands of ordinary Canadians and would permit them to buy manufactured goods, thus, increasing employment opportunities for those who are unemployed.

• (4:10 p.m.)

Fifth, I suggest that the government give serious consideration to a sharp increase in the funding of products to encourage cities to move rapidly into sewage control and pollution abatement programs. I say to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Marchand), as I have said on other occasions, it is a disgrace that in the year 1971 his city of Quebec dumps almost 100 per cent of its raw sewage untreated into the St. Lawrence River; that Montreal, a city of 2½ million people, dumps over 90 per cent of its raw sewage untreated into the St. Lawrence River; and the city of Halifax dumps over 90 per cent of its raw sewage untreated into the bay on which it is built. I cannot think of anything more useful and more productive, both in terms of employment and improving the environment, than that the government should help those cities which I have mentioned, and many others—

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Would the hon. member allow a question?

Mr. Orlikow: Certainly.

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Does he know how many sewage processing plants are being built in Quebec?

[Mr. Orlikow.]

Mr. Orlikow: I would be very happy if the minister, later today or when we return to debate on the government organization bill setting out the powers of the minister of the environment, would tell us what is happening in Quebec City. When I say that close to 100 per cent of the sewage of Quebec City is dumped into the St. Lawrence River, I am quoting from a submission made by the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities to the federal government less than a year ago. If the situation has changed, then I extend my congratulations to the minister and to the city of Quebec. However, I am certain they have a long way to go before they put an appreciable dent in the disastrous situation which has been created in that city.

If the government would move to do these things I have mentioned, then we would begin to move towards full employment; we would begin to wipe out the large scale unemployment which the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion used to be concerned about when he was President of the CNTU, or at least which he seemed to be more concerned about than since he has become a minister. If the government would approve some of the proposals I have made, not very radical or revolutionary proposals, we would begin to move towards the just society about which the Prime Minister spoke so eloquently during the last election, and we would begin to make the just society a meaningful fact—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. I regret having to interrupt the hon. member, but I must do so to notify him that his time has expired.

Mr. Orlikow: If I could have 30 seconds more, I could complete the sentence.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for the hon. member to continue?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Orlikow: As I was saying, we would move towards making the just society, about which the Prime Minister spoke so eloquently a year or two ago, a meaningful fact rather than the bitter joke which the phrase has become to so many of the unemployed.

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, there are so many matters that could be discussed in the budget debate since, in Canada today, problems are legion. However, I shall follow the example that has been set in the past few days and deal with the most pertinent problem, namely, unemployment. I was going to deal with an ancillary matter, that of regional expansion and development. The Minister of Regional Economic Development (Mr. Marchand) is in the House, so perhaps I may deal with it towards the end of my remarks.

In the light of the statistics that were brought down today concerning the growing problem of unemployment, I would like to make some positive contributions to the debate. I believe the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion will be speaking in the debate this afternoon, so I shall curtail my remarks in order to give him an