

The Budget—Mr. Best

party went last week. All that can be said is that it went off in all directions and in a lot of dust.

In so far as Liberal policy is concerned, I should like to refer to a clipping from the *Globe and Mail* of January 12, a newspaper which cannot be said to be biased toward us these days. The heading refers to the fact that fiscal policy remained on the agenda. Did it ever get off the agenda? I do not really know. Perhaps there are some Liberal subcommittees in some dark recesses of the Coliseum still trying to hammer out some fiscal or monetary policy. Nevertheless they were going to spend a lot of money.

There were lots of comments, of course, and lots of cures at this rally; there were comments about our budget and about other national problems. We only wish—and I say this with great sincerity—that these comments and cures would be voiced in this house and not just at rallies. We would like some positive enlightenment from the opposition party as to what they really propose to do, and we would like that in this House of Commons.

Mr. Grafftey: That is asking too much.

Mr. Best: The Liberals proposed a number of things at the rally last week. I note, again in the *Globe and Mail* for January 12—because this had a fair amount of publicity—their comments on unemployment: “An eight-point program featuring easier credit, lower interest rates and personal income tax cuts”. I ask you, Mr. Speaker, does this party really believe in tax cuts and all that sort of thing? Can the public of Canada really believe in this sort of thing?

All we have to do is look at the Liberal record in the years prior to 1957. Look at the huge surpluses that were taken from the pockets of Canadians everywhere, and how do we mesh this with the philosophy and the ideas put forward at the Liberal rally of last week? I think it simply cannot be done, and I question whether the public of Canada will think it can be done; that is, lower taxes, increased benefits and increased expenditures in every sense and form. The Leader of the Opposition and others pointed out that it was necessary to make something attractive to the public, something that they would vote for. But I think one can go too far in this direction. I think the public of Canada will also realize that.

I do not think I am being too unfair when I say to this house and to the Leader of the Opposition that there were a number of rather touching scenes at the Liberal rally last week. One of them I saw as I sat, along with many Canadians, watching the television performance which I think was on

Wednesday night last. There was a lot of noise and music and the Leader of the Opposition, the Liberal leader, was waiting to begin his speech. Some of his comments came over television just before that. He said he had only 20 minutes left; his television time was vanishing and vanishing, and all the while the band played on. Stop the band, he cried. It was a touching scene. That program was going out on this evening right across the country to Canadians everywhere, and it was indeed sad.

I sometimes watch the late show on television—

Mr. Chevrier: Are you speaking of the budget?

Mr. Best: —which frequently lulls me to sleep. I am not sure which was more soporific last Wednesday night, the late show or the Liberal rally. I believe they ran tough competition one for the other; there were the good guys and the bad guys in them both, lots of guns popping off, and there was all the bluster, balderdash, and so on that one frequently sees on these late shows, these “go to sleep shows” on television.

There were other things. I was very pleased to see this, and I wish we saw more of it in this house. I am referring to the hon. member for Trinity (Mr. Hellyer). I was delighted to hear his bilingual baritone the other evening. One of my friends called it a bathroom baritone, and I think that is perhaps the way to describe it. He has an excellent voice, and if you would allow it, Mr. Speaker, I think if he would only confine his utterances in this house to singing he might carry with him the majority opinion of this house rather than that of a small minority.

Mr. Chevrier: You are doing pretty well on diverting.

Mr. Best: I will not divert, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Chevrier: Keep right on.

Mr. Best: —because it seems to me that when we come to serious subjects such as defence, we have heard the hon. member for Trinity support in this house the case for manned interceptors and various principles through the last few months and years. But the other night he changed all this. No more interceptors. I think we should really be serious as we look back on the large flip-flop that the Liberal party had last week in its platform. I do not call that diverting, or perhaps it is diverting; perhaps that is a mild way of putting it. I call that pretty serious for anyone examining the record and platform of this Liberal party.

Something that interested me about the Leader of the Opposition was that in his