

The Budget—Mr. Gauthier

according to some Liberal candidates; nothing for family allowances which should be \$25 a month at least; nothing to remove the discriminatory 11 per cent sales tax on building material; nothing for joint programs which the Prime Minister had promised to discontinue, but instead new ones have been established; nothing to solve the thorny question of receipts for charitable donations, except that in the future each presbytery will have to tack up its federal licence above its front door, just like a car owner has to display his licence plates; nothing to raise income tax exemptions to \$2,500 for single persons and \$5,000 for married couples.

An income tax reduction has been announced for taxpayers with an average or below average income. According to the old Age Security Act, an average income, in the opinion of the government, is \$2,200 a year for a married couple; in other words, income tax is reduced in the case of persons not earning enough. How ridiculous can you get? After these so-called reductions, the minister candidly announced that he will get from the average workers a surplus of about \$120 million a year. Is that enough for you, the small fellows? But do not touch the big fellows. For example, the tax on heavy production machinery and equipment will be reduced to 10 per cent. This is much more urgent than reducing the tax on building materials, because it directly affects the large companies which are so helpful at election time.

And most amazing of all, the minister announces that, probably to reduce unemployment and encourage labour—this must delight the future minister of manpower (Mr. Marchand)—he will reduce his 1966-67 construction program by 10 per cent. In addition, he promises not to launch any other program.

No wonder the future minister of manpower is thinking of bringing Jamaicans to allow our unemployed to stick to their trade for ever.

• (1:20 p.m.)

Again this morning I read about another decision taken by the government. The Minister of Labour (Mr. Nicholson) was announcing that the \$500 premium granted toward the building of family housing during the winter would be abolished shortly.

It means that the new policy of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Sharp) is to deprive those who do not have enough to live. That is the logic of the present government. Besides,

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it is an economic logic which goes extraordinarily well with its monetary system based on indebtedness.

I read on page 6 of the official press release that 19 per cent of the whole budget will go for National Defence in order to pay soldiers to travel to various foreign countries, when we do not even have the competent people we need to protect us against criminals, fraudulent bankruptcies and narcotics. It will cost the Canadian citizens 14 per cent only to pay the interest on our national debt, that is on the credit which the Bank of Canada should have issued and which we had to borrow so as to steal more from the people. We will pay 11 per cent for transportation and communications, whereas the Canadian Pacific will make a net profit of \$67 million at the expense of our crown corporation. Then, I wonder when such extravagance will stop and how much longer it will take the people to wake up?

And who pays for all those mistakes? For all those schemes? For so much incompetence? The Canadian people.

Are you sceptical? Read page 5 of the same press release.

What is done in the field of personal income tax, that is all the workers whose permission is no longer asked but from whom the state collects the tax directly on their gross salary, as soon as they start to work, and even before they have had time to put bread on the table at home? How do you call that if not a state dictatorship? The state first, and let the people die. We have gone that far; 28.5 per cent of the whole budget is thus taken from the small wage earners.

And what about the sales tax which again affects the majority of the working people and which makes up 18 per cent of the budget.

That means, therefore, that the small wage earner pays over 50 per cent of that astronomical and wasteful budget, with regard to the population of the country.

Add to that the tax of 21 per cent on the income of corporations or small businesses, customs duty, etc.

We are forever trying to find new taxation fields but nothing at all is done to recover our country's wealth and use it to promote the welfare of our people.

There does not seem to be any question asked as to whether the country could derive more benefit from its sovereignty rights. What is more, the mere thought of it seems to be cast aside, either not to disturb the foreign