

The Budget—Mr. D. MacDonald

majority does not know a single word of French.

I suggest that until we change the way of doing things in the capital, we will be unable to accept it. Moreover, if we asked the people of Ottawa to accept the national capital, they would say no, they cannot accept it because they do not believe in it.

In Quebec, we believe in it even less. The hon. Minister of Citizenship and Immigration the former Secretary of State, now member for Outremont-Saint-Jean, who are important men in the party, should not overwhelm or impress the other members and ministers by insisting on this national system—

[*English*]

● (9:20 p.m.)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. I must advise the hon. member that the time allotted to him has expired.

Some hon. Members: Carry on.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. Does the house give unanimous consent for the hon. member to continue his remarks?

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: There is not unanimous consent. The hon. member for Prince (Mr. MacDonald).

Mr. David MacDonald (Prince): Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Caron: Mr. Speaker, I admit that some of my time has been taken up by other hon. members and yourself, but I should have had that time to finish my speech.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I must advise the hon. member for Hull that the time taken by the occupant of the chair and some other members of the house was credited to him, and he has been given sufficient time.

Mr. MacDonald (Prince): Mr. Speaker, I should like at this time to speak on the budget, and in so doing I simply want to turn my attention and the attention of the house to two items which have been particularly noteworthy, at least to those of us in Prince Edward Island, in the past few weeks. Perhaps these items in themselves say something much more significant about the way in which this budget was constructed and the kind of communication which took place not only within cabinet ranks but perhaps between governments.

First and foremost I want to mention what has become now a most notorious item, that of the construction of the Prince Edward Island causeway. It is a strange thing in a way that a project which was in fact described by my own predecessor for the constituency of Prince as a non-political project, as a project that is in fact above politics, has become so political. While it was looked on as perhaps having certain influences in the most recent federal election, there are still some who may be willing to see certain influences on the future provincial election which is being held in the coming months.

I want to look at the project not so much from the political value point of view but from the point of view of its significance to the people of Prince Edward Island, and the way it has received such sorry treatment, particularly at the hands of the present government.

I have here a postcard which tells something about the causeway. On the back of the postcard there is a little poem which I should like to read:

At the Capes in the winter you stand on the shore,
New Brunswick behind, P.E. Island before,
And you long to get over, but how can you cross?
You are stopped by the wind, and the lolly and frost.

But this is to tell you a way has been planned
By which you can pass to the opposite strand,
So don't be discouraged, despondent or blue—
Hold this to the light and you'll see your way through.

Then by holding it up to the light, Mr. Speaker, you can see the causeway on one side and the shores of the two provinces on the other. It is an interesting postcard. The most interesting thing about it is that it was mailed in 1908. When the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) said at one point that the Liberal government which had started this project would complete it, I was wondering whether he was thinking of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, because surely this was in his time.

Let me say again that this is not a project that can be the prerogative of any particular party or group. It is a project which is so important that unless every faction in society is in support of it, in full understanding of the dimensions of the project and its significance to the region, it will have in many ways a tragic effect, either in the actual construction of the project or upon its realization.

I was immensely disturbed, as I am sure were many members of this house, not just those from the maritime region and Prince