

The Budget—Mr. Deachman

Let us feed them, let us clothe those who are naked, and house those who are without decent homes. Then, the government, the Postmaster General and Minister of Communications, the Prime Minister, and the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, together, will have helped the people. At long last they will have put the Canadian economy in the service of the human being.

[English]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Prior to recognizing the hon. member for Vancouver Quadra, I wish to advise the house of the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE
DEBATED

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the house that the questions to be raised at the time of adjournment tonight are as follows: the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles)—Social Security—possibility of legislation to decrease family allowance and old age benefits; the hon. member for Hillsborough (Mr. Macquarrie)—Education—employment of Canadian scholars in Canadian universities; the hon. member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Serré)—Regional Development—program for northern Ontario.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

THE BUDGET

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE
MINISTER OF FINANCE

The house resumed consideration of the motion of Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance) that this house approves in general the budgetary policy of the government, and the amendment thereto of Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West), and the amendment to the amendment of Mr. Saltzman.

Mr. Grant Deachman (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, in British Columbia the provincial government has been showing a film, "The Good Life", throughout the province. It is a portrayal of life in British Columbia as the Premier of British Columbia and his

[Mr. Caouette.]

officials believe it is lived. Before the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson) becomes seduced by Mr. Bennett's portrayal of a dolce vita on the west coast, I wish to draw his attention to a few realities. A Vancouver teacher wrote to me very recently stating:

For the past five years I have been teaching in a transient area largely made up of foreign speaking families who don't know how to make the authorities aware of their problems.

She has written to me from Vancouver about an area in that city in which she teaches. She goes on to say:

Only the people who live there from day to day, year in and year out, haunted by real poverty, truly know what it is like.

Families move in and out and the housing gets progressively worse. One mother felt forced to move because she couldn't keep her children free from colds as their clothes and bedding never really dried out in their damp basement suite. Another family moved because the plaster was falling in chunks off the ceiling and the place wasn't heated. Another family, who have repaired and painted an old house at their own expense were forced to move when the landlord raised the rent for "improved accommodation" beyond their means. Where these people go heaven alone knows as they have little money for anything better.

For years there have been rumours of a public housing development for the area. But nothing comes of it and people continue to suffer.

Why can't money be found to defend today's children from disease, poverty and lack of opportunity for the good life—

• (5:10 p.m.)

I guess she has been hearing about the government's film as well.

—our country can give them if it wants?

I am cheered, and I know we all are, that the Minister of Finance has been able, without raising either personal income or corporation taxes to produce a surplus in his budget, but I am also aware that we have hardly begun to fight the war on poverty or the housing crisis in metropolitan Canada, which is as real in Vancouver as it is in Toronto and Montreal.

Because I sometimes feel that members of this house believe that we who come from B.C. come from a land of milk and honey where such things do not really happen and where it is our privilege to contribute to those who are in need in other parts of the country, I wish to speak this afternoon of another crisis, perhaps even more far-reaching, more deeply rooted, more difficult to cure, and more significant for all Canadians than the housing crisis—the wheat crisis on