

Effect of Budgetary Proposals

incentives. Neither is it what the Conservatives are saying. The answer is that there has to be direction and management and planning of the way we are going to conduct our economic future. My leader pointed this out earlier today. Unless we have a government that is prepared to do these things, we are not going to solve the unemployment problem.

I cannot be totally hopeful that the present government is going to see it that way—although they are beginning to see some things—but I hope there is the possibility, if positive proposals are advanced and discussed, for a measure of success. I see no chance of success in following the Conservative line of “Throw them out and throw us in”. I do not see anything positive in that proposal. Canadians are not likely to forget the arrogance displayed by the Conservatives when they were the government.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An hon. Member: Same old gang.

Mr. Baldwin: Move an amendment.

Mr. Saltsman: Mr. Speaker, I hope the government comes to the conclusion that the corporate rip-off measures, rapid depreciation and lower corporation rates are not the answer to Canada's dilemma. The hon. member for Verdun made some interesting remarks and pointed out how rapidly things are changing—that the situation has changed very much since the minister first introduced these measures. He is right, things have changed enormously. These are no longer the solutions to Canada's problems, if they ever were, and I doubt that. We are in a real bind. We will have to take extensive measures to save this country. We should not respond by trying to outbribe the Americans when they offer DISC to their people, but we—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order, please. I regret that I must interrupt the hon. member, but the time allotted to him has expired.

An hon. Member: That is too bad.

Some hon. Members: Continue.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order, please. If the hon. member for Gander-Twillingate (Mr. Lundrigan) is rising for the purpose of asking a question, he will have to seek the unanimous consent of the House because the hon. member's time has expired. Is there such unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: No.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): There does not seem to be consent. I recognize the Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner).

Mr. Lundrigan: Mr. Speaker—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order, please. The hon. member for Gander-Twillingate on a point of order.

[Mr. Saltsman.]

Mr. Lundrigan: I was going to make a suggestion to Your Honour to perhaps facilitate the business of the House and accommodate the hon. member who suggested that we talk about the inadequacy of the program and not of incentives. I think the House would entertain an amendment from him, if he had the courage to move it. And if he did, I wonder if he would vote for it.

Some hon. Members: Order.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): That is hardly a point of order. The Minister of Finance.

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, during the course of the budget debate and earlier today the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) said the fundamental issue is credibility. I fully agree with him. I very much welcome this debate on the motion because its transparent indulgence in political gamesmanship further exposes the crumbling credibility of the Conservatives in their desperation for power at any price.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): I think the Leader of the Opposition, on behalf of his party collectively, betrayed a shameless political lust that would not be excused in any civilized party.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): I have a good deal of sympathy for the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin). His motions are usually drafted well, but this one was just a procedural sham and he was not able to disguise it. As recently as Sunday, February 18, just one day before I introduced my budget, the Leader of the Opposition was contending in a speech before the Quebec Progressive Conservative Association—

Mr. Lefebvre: All two of them.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): There was a large crowd there and I have to assume that the entire political association of the Conservative party was present in one room at the same time.

Mr. Paproski: There were 2,500, at \$75 a plate.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): The Leader of the Opposition was contending that three basic steps had to be taken to deal with the twin problems of inflation and unemployment. In the previous budget debate, the Leader of the Opposition said that there should be substantial cuts in personal income taxes to provide a stimulus for the economy and to break inflation by containing what he termed the expectation spiral.

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While the Conservative leader has repeatedly proposed a cut in personal income taxes of up to 7 per cent, the reduction proposed in the budget is equivalent to almost twice that amount, between 12 and 13 per cent, and the cost in terms of reduced taxes represents \$1.3 billion. In