

The Budget—Mr. Graftey

employment figures are remaining stable, the increase in unemployment is entirely unacceptable. Let no ministers of the crown quote statistics to those Canadians who are looking for work. Statistics never took the place of a job or filled a lunch pail. Though the d.b.s. figures show employment as stable, unemployment is rising steadily. The present Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Martin) used to remind us of this when we were in office, and as long as this government lasts we intend to make it live up to its responsibilities in this key area.

This is not all. We are facing a national housing crisis which would be considered a disgrace in any civilized nation state; especially is it a disgrace in a nation state such as Canada which claims to have the second highest standard of living in the world.

Mr. Deachman: The angels are against you. That is a sneaky way to win a debate.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Chair recognizes the force of the competition but perhaps the hon. member will continue.

Mr. Graftey: I am not bothered by the noise. It is not nearly as confusing as the cackles I hear from time to time from hon. members opposite. I am perfectly at ease and I am willing to go on until five o'clock.

While this country is facing an unprecedented housing crisis as a result of which so many people are unable to find a decent home or keep a roof over the heads of their families, the minister is still on the point of calling another conference. Mr. Speaker, Canadians are recognizing that conferences never have taken the place of concrete action to bring about results, and never will.

Whether the government is talking about current estimates or projected estimates, when we are confronted with a sudden cut in those estimates of \$1 billion I can only say: "What a way to run a country." Maybe that is a common, vernacular expression. But all I can say is: "What a way to run a country."—finding all of a sudden that one has to do this sort of thing.

I know that governments cannot always be run like business concerns, but can we not expect a modicum of business management in the day to day affairs of administration? What a disgrace. No wonder people are losing confidence in this government and public institutions, when they see such a spectacle, one which makes us the laughing-stock not only of our own people but of nations abroad.

[Mr. Graftey.]

Mr. Barnett: You sound like a Liberal, talking as you would have talked when you were parliamentary secretary to the minister of finance.

Mr. Graftey: I realize that the hon. member, who has no real expectancy of gaining power, can be very free in his statements.

Budgets are intended to create stability and are expected to do so. The two ministers of finance who have spoken for the administration on the floor of the House of Commons have succeeded only in creating an atmosphere of confusion and havoc.

Mr. Speaker, may I call it five o'clock and adjourn the debate?

Mr. Churchill: May I rise on a point of order and draw the attention of the Chair to the fact that during the debate this afternoon some of the speakers taking part have been interrupted by noises off-stage. There have been comments about noise. The noise was not in the chamber itself. It was due, and I think *Hansard* should record this, to the centenary Christmas celebration outside on behalf of the children.

Mr. Deachman: I concur with the remarks of the hon. gentleman who has just spoken. The noise is from the concluding celebration of the greatest year in Canada's history.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Churchill: Under the poorest government that we have known.

● (5:00 p.m.)

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Monteith: Before we go into private members hour, Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Finance if he proposes to continue with the budget debate next week, until its completion?

Mr. Sharp: Yes, Mr. Speaker, that is my understanding.

An hon. Member: Throughout the whole week?

Mr. Sharp: Just until the termination of the legal time.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Tardif): Order. It being five o'clock the house will now proceed to the consideration of private members business as listed on today's order paper, namely public bills and private bills.