

The Budget—Mr. Holtmann

Mr. Speaker, I have had 20 years of experience in watching Budgets both as a journalist and as a politician in both this Chamber and in the Ontario Legislature. I venture to say that this is the emptiest and the most insignificant Budget that I have seen in all those 20 years of experience.

Where the dickens was he when the Liberals were bringing in Budget after Budget and unemployment and the deficit both went up? He thinks this Budget is bad! We are creating jobs with this Budget. We are bringing the deficit down. Where was he when the Liberals were bringing in those Budgets? I can go on reading this, it is as comical as heck. He went on to say:

The Minister's agenda for economic renewal is not working yet for us.

That is the NDP talking. We created 705,000 jobs, so what is wrong with that agenda?

Mr. Riis: Where have you created those jobs? In B.C.? In Alberta?

Mr. Holtmann: If you want to defend what he said—

Mr. Riis: I will tell you where, in downtown Toronto.

Mr. Holtmann: What else did the Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre say? In his review of the Budget he said:

We got an acceleration of tax payments by larger employers, which will affect the cash flow of the private sector to the benefit of the cash flow of the public sector.

Can you make out what the dickens that is? That is what he got out of the Budget. I never heard of such a mishmash. Then he refers to how important the Budget would be to his constituents in Ottawa Centre. Ottawa is the richest place in this country. Civil servants earn so much and the National Capital Commission is looking after the City of Ottawa. I think this is a pretty good place to be.

Let us go back to the Minister of Finance of the Province of Manitoba and see what he has done. He is a member of the NDP and I suppose the Hon. Member would do what he has done. To collect more money they recently increased hydro rates for everyone, rich and poor, by 4.7 per cent. That hits the poor guy, and they stand up for the poor guy. At least they say they do. Then they turn around and if you are making \$18,000 you are going to pay another \$400. That is standing up for the little guy? Can the Hon. Member stand up in this House and still say he stands up for the little guy?

Mr. Riis: Are you a little guy?

Mr. Holtmann: No, but you defend the little guy, the poor fellow. Then they hit smokers. Did you hear today how they kind of laughed in the House about taxing smoking? Yet the NDP in Manitoba taxed smokers. So did we. They should not be critical of it because it is done by the NDP as well as the Conservatives and Liberals. It is a natural thing to tax. The NDP cannot jump all over the fence.

Get a load of this. There is an article here that says fast food junkies will have to fork out more for take-out foods over \$6. Do you remember when we brought in a tax on piggy-puffs

and crunchies? We brought in a little tax on those things you get at drive-in theaters for kids. The NDP turns around and does the same thing and then criticizes us.

I realize that my time is up, Mr. Speaker, but I think the Members to my left should put the proper perspective on things. They have supported Budget after Budget which drove this country into devastating economic chaos. They should support this Government for putting things back together.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Questions and comments.

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, I know my hon. friend from Selkirk—Interlake (Mr. Holtmann) would not want to mislead the House inadvertently. He just said the NDP has been supporting these Budgets over the years. I want to make it perfectly clear—

Mr. Epp (Provencher): In 1970, 1972, 1973.

Mr. Riis:—that the NDP has never supported a Liberal Budget.

Mr. Epp (Provencher): Yes, you did.

Mr. Riis: The NDP has never supported a Liberal Budget or a Conservative Budget.

Mr. Epp (Provencher): Oh, yes, you did.

Mr. Riis: Let us just clear the decks of that comment.

Mr. Epp (Provencher): Nelson, 1973, minority Government. I was here.

Mr. Riis: I also want to clear up a misconception left by my hon. friend. He was talking about all these jobs being created. He will remember that a Statistics Canada labour report a few weeks ago identified the permanent jobs created in 1986 and found that 96 per cent of those jobs were created in the Province of Ontario, most of those within 100 miles of the CN Tower in downtown Toronto. Let us be clear: Jobs have been created in the greater Toronto area, but there is another 99.9 per cent of Canada which was overlooked.

If the Government has done all these wonderful things towards building confidence, why has there been a net outflow of hard-core investment money totalling \$8 billion over the last two years? When you take into account the money that has come into Canada for investment and that which has left for investment in the U.S., Hong Kong or elsewhere, there is a \$10 billion deficit.

Mr. Fennell: How much came in?

Mr. Riis: Can the Hon. Member explain how that reflects confidence?

While he is on his feet, does he agree with this statement uttered by no less than Sir John A. Macdonald, the Leader of