

the central government and, second, by disowning the promise made to the province of Quebec and to the rest of this country of a new federation. That promise did not include the molding of a socialist republic. This is not the true destiny of Canada, despite the socialist conversion we have undergone under successive Liberal governments which have imposed socialist programs upon the people and have caused the people to pay for them without having the courage to call them such in election campaigns.

An obvious example is the increase in unemployment insurance premiums. Call it what you will, it is, in fact, a tax hike to finance another abortive social program. Instead of fighting to increase employment through strong, stimulative measures, the Liberal government merely puts a salve on the completely unacceptable unemployment situation by guaranteeing UIC cheque payments.

● (2020)

This increase of one-third in unemployment insurance premiums to be paid by every single worker in Canada will not only directly increase taxation but will have a direct and adverse effect on the economy by markedly reducing the real disposable income of Canadians. The increases to be paid by the employers will, of course, be passed on yet again to the Canadian consumer through higher prices of goods and services. In addition, it further weakens the international competitiveness of Canadian manufacturers.

There has been a shift in recent years of the needless burden of UIC payments from the government to the payroll deductions of employees. The workers who can least afford to pay are, therefore, supporting the masses of unemployed who are themselves out of work because of the failure of this government to take measures to stimulate the economy. In short, the Minister of Finance (Mr. MacEachen) with his increases in UIC premiums has shifted financial responsibility for the maintenance of the unemployed from the government, whose problem and program it was, to the working people whose program it has become, whether they like it or not.

What consequences can the working people of Canada expect from this measure introduced by the Liberal government? This is distorted and aborted socialism making the poor pay to subsidize those who are even poorer. How does the government propose to stimulate the economy and protect and create jobs? Would the Minister of Finance care to ask the workers in Windsor who lined up in their thousands three weeks ago in the hope of a few hundred jobs, or the few maritimers of Sydney Steel who were recruited by Fargo in the Yukon, whether they would rather receive their UIC cheques from their working brothers and sisters or whether they would prefer a stimulative economy, an economy that attracts investment, not drives it away, an economy that seeks to encourage and not to restrict Canadians?

What is happening here is that the unholy Liberal triumvirate in charge of finance, energy and the constitution is attempting to snatch financial power and constitutional power from its traditional seat in the provincial legislatures. It is

doing this, or at least it will seek to do this at the expense of the unity of this country. And for what? For the sake of a grand design born in the presumptuous mind of one man who, aided by his loyal and partisan engineers, is determined to alter the basic and fundamental historic association of this country, of this constitutional federation, of this democratic union of co-operative levels of government.

Already, the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) has caused seven of our ten provincial governments to express opposition to his plans in the courts. Already he has caused a cutback in oil production in our most energy-productive province. This is not the Middle East. We are not accustomed here to wielding economic sticks to secure territorial rights, to enhance wounded egos or build insensitive sheikdoms. We are not accustomed to creeping, disastrous socialism which promises to bankrupt this country, impoverish our people and alienate the industries of the world from our shores. We are not accustomed to a central government requiring our people to pay for nationalized industries which they neither want, need, nor have coveted.

Where the Liberal budget bases belief on an illusion, the Conservative budget based belief on a specified energy tax credit worth \$200 or more to an eligible family. The only thing families are eligible for now will be to pay by 1983 \$350 more per year to heat their homes as a direct result of these newly imposed taxes; to pay \$1.09 more per gallon to fuel their cars, to pay \$70 per year to heat their homes with gas—an excellent example of the government's giving with one hand and taking away with the other.

We must not forget that natural gas is itself a non-renewable energy source. Mr. Speaker, the people of Britain will be pleased to tell you how all through the 1960s they were encouraged through grants to convert to gas and how, just last spring, they suffered a 60 per cent overnight increase in the price of their gas which, by this time, was virtually in every British home. Beware!

Mr. Deans: Was that a Tory government?

Mr. Domm: Several provincial governments have already taken steps to combat the damage done to the provincial economies by this government. Ministers over there attempt to rewrite the constitutional arrangement, not only on the patriation front, but through these insidious attempts to rob the provinces of their economic initiatives, thereby negating the strength, importance and rightful influence of regional self-determination, a concept deeply held and hard fought for in this country's history.

Where in all this does Ontario lie, if that is not too obvious a question for the Liberals? If this is a true budget, if it purports to address the totality of the Canadian economy, if it is not a thinly veiled attempt at political and economic dominance, what does it do to advance the interests of the country as a whole? How does it address the non-transitory needs of a central Canada or the permanent and enduring needs of one third of Canada's population within Ontario's borders? Given the immense resource riches of Ontario, which differ only in