

colleague agrees to consider this as notice, I might give him an answer at the next sitting.

**Mr. Pigeon:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary question. Does the Secretary of State consider it to be consistent and decent that during elections, members of a political party ask secretaries or employees in the civil service—

(Text):

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

(Translation):

**Mr. Pigeon:** —to do their work for them?

(Text):

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I did not hear the hon. member's question, but from certain phrases he used I take it that it is not an inquiry on matters of fact.

## UNITED NATIONS

### DISARMAMENT—CO-SPONSORS OF CANADIAN RESOLUTION

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Howard C. Green (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Yesterday the hon. member for York-Scarborough asked me for a list of the countries which had co-sponsored the Canadian resolution on disarmament. I have a complete list here, and it is as follows: Austria, Argentina, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador, Federation of Malaya, Greece, Haiti, Iceland, Iran, Ireland, Norway, New Zealand, Pakistan, Peru, Sweden, Uruguay.

## THE BUDGET

### SUPPLEMENTARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

The house resumed, from Tuesday, December 20, consideration of the motion of Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance) that Mr. Speaker do now leave the chair for the house to go into committee of ways and means.

**Mr. W. M. Benidickson (Kenora-Rainy River):** Mr. Speaker, you will recall that I had rather unusual difficulties being heard last night at any length, and I was beginning to think there was some hidden reason for not hearing me again this afternoon because of the length of time it took to get through orders of the day.

On the morning after the delivery of this most unusual document, a supplementary budget, I think the most prominent question across the land was, why did we have this budget at all? Certainly, one question has been answered. We are not likely to have an election in the near future because this document was so empty of anything that would

### The Budget—Mr. Benidickson

be very popular across the land. I thought last night that if the taxpayers, after hearing the report from the finance minister as to his programs for the present emergency, were sad, their sadness was equalled by the sadness of the supporters of this government who last night certainly looked very sad indeed when they found the empty package. If the budget had little to counter the economic dangers in this country as they are becoming very evident, it was equally negative I suggest in countering some of the other reports that are gathered by certain special polls with which the supporters of the government are very familiar.

I believe the general conclusion must be that this government, in planning this session, reached a decision to have a budget long in advance of the decision as to what they were going to put in the budget. When they came to the point of deciding what to put in the budget, we can see how little manoeuvrability they concluded was open to them in the financial market or otherwise, largely due to circumstances of their own making in previous budgets. If the country was disappointed, we can understand that it was disappointed because of the tremendous drama and build-up that was cultivated in the suggestion that we were taking this unusual step of having a supplementary budget. Even one of our friends in the press gallery, who is credited perhaps with being one of the stage entrance key-holders to this government, I am sure would be very disappointed in the package that was presented last night. In last evening's *Ottawa Journal*, which appeared prior to the budget, we find an article from Mr. Richard Jackson which reads as follows:

This is the night Finance Minister Fleming marches into the commons and unwraps the government's Christmas box for Mr. and Mrs. Canada and family.

The gift, the government has hinted in the throne speech, is intended to be some of the stuff out of which better times are made.

... Tomorrow in Ottawa, and across the land, it will be a little like Christmas morning around the family fireside—

As I indicated last night, there seemed to be an empty stocking, unless one is going to say that there was coal in the stocking rather than a candy cane. We were also given to understand that after the adjournment last session the Prime Minister (Mr. Diefenbaker), who would not admit it in public and continued to regard any reference to unemployment as a dirty word that at least he would not use, did say to his ministers that they would have to do something. He is reported to have said, I want you gentlemen to bring forward, between now and the new session, some proposals for remedying the serious situation which seems to be developing. One reporter indicates that some 77 proposals