

The Budget—Mr. Mongrain

our area and even make it a "special area". This augurs well for a future of real prosperity. When reading the newspapers from my area, one finds how pleased are some organizations, such as the Chambers of Commerce, including the Junior Chamber of Commerce, labour organizations and industrialists' and businessmen's associations, to see that the government has made this gesture. They are ready to do everything possible to take fullest advantage of the benefits made available by the government.

I therefore thank the government for I am convinced that I speak for all the taxpayers, for all my fellow-citizens in my area who are happy with the situation.

The hon. member for Bellechasse has said earlier that the federal government was not doing anything to help the farmers. Even if the federal government does not hand out all the grants to dairy producers—and I will not embark on that topic where I would be at a loss, since there is no farming in my riding—it has suggested alternatives for some rural areas in the province of Quebec. If the Quebec government would accept one or other of those solutions, the province would become highly prosperous, especially in the field of farming which is now stagnating.

For instance, when the federal government offers to develop a national park in the Gaspé peninsula or in the St. Maurice valley, they should rejoice, as a few million dollars investment could draw from tourists \$15, \$20 or \$25 million a year, which would benefit people of these rural and surrounding areas. All people living along roads travelled by tourists would enjoy an increased annual income.

The member for Bellechasse is right when he contends that the present problem is an economic one. We must put an end to our barren quarrels on all aspects of the constitutional reform, as most of the time these are empty words spoken by lawyers striving for influence.

It is important to ensure to all Canadians their three meals a day. It is for this reason that the government is taking concrete measures such as the designation of special areas in order to erase regional disparities, to assist municipalities and to create conditions that will promote the setting up of new industries or the development of existing ones.

That is why the federal government is prepared to create national parks in Quebec, why it has implemented a retraining program designed to give a minimum of academic

background to those who lack it, to provide those whose skills have become obsolete with new ones, to teach skills now in great demand to those who have none at all. Those are concrete measures for the elimination of unemployment. The people do not want charity. I commend the government's decision to review its social legislation in order that, as soon as possible, all Canadians may have a minimum guaranteed income allowing them to live decently.

The hon. member knows the government is concerned with doing all these things. He will have become aware that government policy aims at the goals so well spelled out by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) when he said, in his own colourful style: If my neighbour is hungry and I give him a fish, there is no doubt that I have helped him but if I also give him a fishing-rod, he will be able to help himself.

This, in a way, is characteristic of this government's policy. To suggest that the present government is not doing anything to solve the present situation, is not true. Indeed, we should not forget that a cold wind of inflation is blowing on the whole world, including countries which were more prosperous at one time than Canada.

I am thinking, for instance, of England whose government has a philosophy that is very close to that of the NDP, of England that has a great deal of trouble trying to maintain some kind of stability. In fact, from time to time the workers protest. France which is a very prosperous country has succeeded due to a certain economic uncertainty, in overthrowing a giant named de Gaulle.

I might also mention Italy which is unable to form a government at the present time.

In Canada, we have succeeded at least in maintaining some sort of stability and in preventing the worst. It is true that there is unemployment in this country. However, if the government had not taken with our help the steps we know, the situation would be far more disastrous.

The opposition co-operated with the government about the implementation of social measures in Canada. In fact, the federal government spends billions of dollars throughout this country, all the year around, in order to maintain some economic stability. Were it not for this initiative and taking into account the crisis that prevails everywhere in the world, the situation would be very much worse.