

The Budget

Prime Minister's fault. We hear that, but there is one thing that is true.

Mr. Nunziata: Eleven per cent can't be wrong.

Mr. Della Noce: Yes, 11 per cent and 17 per cent. That means we are doing something right. If you are popular, you are doing something wrong in politics.

Mr. Dennis Mills (Broadview—Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I would like to reassure the member that no one on this side of the House or anyone in this House really has anything other than the highest of respect for the entrepreneurs of this country. They sometimes work seven days a week, 15 hours a day, fighting off bank managers, trying to meet payrolls and make a profit in a very difficult economic time. The hon. member should not cast aspersions over here that we are not sensitive to entrepreneurship because we are.

The question that I have to ask the member is a tough one in the sense that it might be sensitive for him. It seems to me that what this country needs right now is foreign investment. We need foreign capital coming into this country which will make sure that there are pools of capital there for entrepreneurs such as the one he describes, so he will not have undue pressures put on him. There will be some spending out there to put people back to work.

Does this member think that maybe one of the greatest reasons why our foreign investment has shrunk so dramatically in the last year and a half is because we are sending out a signal around the world that we may split as a country? Does this member not think that a more constructive approach for the government to adopt would be to communicate to the people of Quebec the federal presence that exists in that province? The federal presence exists through loans and grants and it exists in every province. Right now it seems that the people of Quebec and a lot of the entrepreneurs of Quebec think the national government is doing nothing for them.

Mr. Della Noce: Mr. Speaker, I want to say to my hon. colleague that when I was speaking he was listening. He was not cutting me off. I have a lot of respect for that. When I mentioned some people, I did not mean him on the other side of the House.

My hon. colleague asks what the message is. Canada is not shrinking. This country is growing. There are too many people who try to play politics and I can only speak

for Quebec because I am there every day. There was an article in the paper *La Presse*, *lundi, 2 mars*, page A7, where a girl said she only makes \$15,000 or \$16,000 a year, but she forgot to say it is for 52 hours a month and she got \$69 a day to have lunch and four hours pay to visit. This does not help my enterprises and this is worse than the message you tried to tell me.

Mr. Ronald J. Duhamel (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, I am extremely pleased to be able to be in the House today to address this budget.

Before I get into the substance of the budget I want to share with my colleagues a dream I had last night. When I went to bed I knew I would have to address the budget today. I fell asleep shortly thereafter and dreamed I was a much younger man from some small town, I believe it was in Alberta, and I needed a car. I needed a car because I had to go to another community and it was one of the only ways to get there. Once I was there I might be able to go to school.

I came to the first car lot and lo and behold there was another young man about my age, about half of what I am today, with a warm smile and an engaging handshake, who quickly took me aside and said he had exactly what I needed, a beautiful first-class used car. I followed him and there was a lovely newly painted blue car that looked almost as good as the day it rolled out of the factory.

I started to ask about the motor, the tires, the transmission, and the rear end. He said not to worry and that the car would take me where I wanted to go. He told me to trust him and not to be concerned.

Since I needed a car and he was so convincing, I decided to buy the vehicle. In this dream I started to that next town. The first thing I knew there was a knock in the motor and I could not go any further. I got that repaired. When I looked a little further into the car and had it looked at by a mechanic, we noticed that the transmission was about to go.

• (1640)

I want to tell you that there were a lot of similarities in the dream I had last night and this budget we are in the process of examining right now. There is, indeed, when you explore this budget. When you get right into it you find the problems. Let me not be partisan when I say that. I want to quote some independent sources who have looked at this budget.