

The Budget—Mr. Gordon

before us, and we hope it will result in a solution for this deplorable problem.

On all sides of the house and in all parties we are generally committed to the axioms of the welfare state. Great programs of welfare and social benefits are accepted by all parties, yet in those limited areas where the vast body of people are not represented, such areas as mental health, alcoholism and dope addiction, we know we will not gain a great number of votes by bringing in remedial measures. Alcoholism, dope addiction, and mental retardation do not strike the vast majority of people, but I suggest that if we are sincere adherents of social welfare and better standards of well-being we should begin with those who are the least able to look after themselves.

As politicians, it may be those are the very last people with whom we are concerned, because they are not politically popular, they do not control any large block of votes and, as I say, the vast majority of the population is not going to give us political approbation for helping such people.

I suggest that in this area of mental retardation, and specifically with respect to children, we cannot take very great pride federally or provincially in what we have done in this supposedly enlightened and advanced country. It is my hope that when the report of the royal commission comes in and is debated in this house, the hon. member who proposed this bill, and others who have supported his ideas, will give their approval to the kind of remedy which will do something for the problems of children who are mentally retarded.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. The hour appointed for the consideration of private members' business has expired.

It being six o'clock I do now leave the chair.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The house resumed at 8 p.m.

THE BUDGET**ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE
MINISTER OF FINANCE**

Hon. Walter L. Gordon (Minister of Finance) moved:

That Mr. Speaker do now leave the chair for the house to go into committee of ways and means.

He said: Mr. Speaker, this afternoon the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson), the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Diefenbaker) and other hon. members spoke about Jack Garland, and how much he will be missed by all hon. members of this house. I shall not repeat

what has been said, but I could not begin my budget speech without adding a few words about the feeling of loss and sadness that I share with all hon. members in not having Jack with us tonight. Inevitably there is a very close relationship between ministers of finance and ministers of national revenue. In my case I shall always be grateful to Jack Garland for his advice, his common sense, his sound judgment, his friendship and his cheerfulness, and support when times were tough. Jack Garland sat in on the many meetings preceding the preparation of the budget that I am about to deliver. He made a great contribution to it, as he did to everything he was involved in or associated with. He was a sensible, quiet man who was universally respected. Jack Garland was everybody's friend.

Mr. Speaker, all hon. members can take satisfaction from the improvement that has been occurring in economic conditions in Canada and from the optimism with which we can view the immediate future. Unemployment is still too high, and in the Atlantic provinces and eastern Quebec it is much too high. But it is lower almost everywhere than it has been for some years. The deficit in our current account balance of payments with other countries is still too large but it is smaller than it has been since 1954. The prospects for the current year are good; indeed, in most parts of Canada they are very good. Employment, production and incomes should all be substantially higher than last year for the country as a whole.

Many changes in fiscal and economic policies were called for in the circumstances this parliament faced last spring. It was necessary to move quickly on a number of fronts, and understandably some of the proposals that were put forward were questioned at the time.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Horner (Acadia): The understatement of the year.

Mr. Gordon: It is now clear, however, that the main policy changes proposed last spring and summer have paid off well and will continue to pay off in the months and years ahead.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Bell: For whom?

Mr. Gordon: These measures have contributed to the increase in economic activity that has occurred and to the reduction of unemployment. They should be continued and they will be.

The winter house building bonus was so effective that a limit had to be put on the

