

# HALTON MEMBER SANDY BEST BUDGET DEBATE SPEAKER

During the federal budget debate, Halton member Sandy Best made one of the key speeches in the House of Commons. His entire speech, as recorded in Hansard, is reproduced in two installments, this week and next in the Herald.

**Alexander Best (Halton):** Mr. Speaker, I am happy today to be able to make a few remarks on the continuation of the budget debate. First of all I should like to compliment some of the hon. members who spoke last night, the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mr. Brown), the hon. member for Hesse-la-Madriene (Mr. Keays), for the interesting information they put before the House on various aspects of the supplementary budget. The situation was indeed to a great extent, as I have said, by these members and others such as the hon. member Carleton (Mr. Bell) who spoke yesterday afternoon.

My own feelings over the Christmas recess, and the impressions I gained from my constituents and others, was that the supplementary budget was indeed a sound one, and brought forward important changes in economic structure from Canada's point of view. As some have pointed out, it was not a budget that would perhaps affect directly the taxation position of every individual in this country in the most immediate sense but it was a broad and basic budget, one that in the long run and, indeed, in the short run in many cases, will affect us all. I feel that it is a national budget without being strictly a nationalistic budget, one which was Canadian in scope, not anti-American, one which should help aid the growth of our country in the months years ahead.

It had as a most important effect, and indeed of the most important of all, that of bringing the Canadian dollar closer to parity with the United States dollar. It is a problem about which I have received many letters from my constituents. As well it is a most important matter, and the change in the long run, and indeed in the short run, has had a very beneficial effect on the economic life of our country. There are a few matters in the supplementary budget upon which I should like to touch. The first is the increase in depreciation applicable to industrial plants either in which there is a labour surplus or which will be producing new products. This important measure has a healthy effect on areas of our country. I think of measures that one factor in my own riding has mentioned this matter in the past months and years. I am convinced that these measures will be taking positive effect now as a result of this supplementary budget.

**Good Budget**  
In there is the question of money in so far as the income of university students is concerned or the support they receive from their parents. This is a problem that has an and frustrated people many years. I believe this change is a good one upon which I have received many letters in recent years. I think the Minister of Finance is to be complimented for these and other measures that he has taken to help relieve all hon. members on the side of the House, are indeed, to see most members of the Liberal opposition in good health. They seem to be rather a rough time week at the Coliseum. As a matter of fact I was wondering, various members of the opposition struggled to get up or head off various questions, whether or not of the party was leaving behind, or where the conical lay. Of course, the members were there. All the time, we saw the old faces of the members of the boards of directors, the people who have been in the background and foreground of this party, and its destiny for many years. Nothing had changed.

**Young Liberals Trampled**  
Nevertheless, there was a young Liberal who was trampled, were there in large numbers. They really did not get away. They were trampled, were pushed into the corner but they did make their heard. Perhaps, at long last we are seeing a breath of air blown into the Liberal party. I see the hon. member for Essex East (Mr. Martin) and we did not hear too much from him. Perhaps he is going for some more propitious time to voice his goals and aspirations. When we did hear from him it seemed to be a negative way. He did seem to agree with the ideas and welfare resolutions. I did not want my hands tied at some time in the future to be made to introduce measures of his own. What disappointed me, Mr. Speaker, was the fact that we

heard nothing at all from him on the subject of agriculture. As the agricultural critic of the Liberal party, and as one farmer to another, I thought at least he should have given the meeting the benefit of his opinion on various subjects such as soybeans, sugar beets, rapeseed and other agricultural commodities. We did not hear very much about that. Their agricultural platform was a void.

**Which Way Did They Go?**  
As a matter of fact we heard very little about agriculture and about a good many other things. I was interested in fiscal and monetary policy. There were a number of resolutions brought forward about which we heard very little except some vague references to a national planning commission, socialism and its height. Various members of the press have said it is a question whether the members of the Liberal party lunged to the left, leached to the left or were dragged skyward or the other way. It is still a question, because no one knows where the Liberal party went last week. All that can be said is that it went off in all directions and in a lot of dust.

In so far as Liberal policy is concerned, I should like to refer to a clipping from the Globe & Mail of Jan. 12, a newspaper which cannot be said to be biased toward us these days. The heading refers to the fact that fiscal policy remained on the agenda. Did it ever get off the agenda? I do not really know. Perhaps there are some dark, subterranean in some dark recesses of the Coliseum still trying to hammer our some fiscal or monetary policy. Nevertheless they were going to spend a lot of money.

**How Gullible Public?**  
There were lots of comments, of course, and lots of cures at this rally; there were comments about our budget and about our other national problems. We only wish — and I say this with great sincerity — that these comments and cures would be voiced in this House and not just at rallies. We would like some positive enlightenment from the opposition party as to what they really propose to do, and we would like that in this House of Commons.

The Liberals proposed a number of things at the rally last week. I note, again in the Globe & Mail for January 12th, that this had a fair amount of publicity — their comments on unemployment: "An eight point farm program featuring easier credit, lower interest rates and personal income tax cuts." I ask you, Mr. Speaker, does this party really believe in tax cuts and all that sort of thing? Can the public of Canada really believe in this sort of thing?

**Stop the Band!**  
All we have to do is look at the Liberal record in the years prior to 1957. Look at the huge surpluses that were taken from the pockets of Canadians everywhere, and how do we mesh this with the philosophy and the ideas put forward at the Liberal rally of last week? I think it simply cannot be done, and I question whether the public of Canada will think it can be done, that is, lower taxes, increased benefits and increased expenditures in every



BY DOROTHY BARKER

There are some things you just never forget, like the blue of a summer sky, or little gusts of wind that playfully gather puffs of newly fallen snow and heap them like spun sugar in the lee of a rockery. The cold turquoise blue of the man's eyes I shall remember always. They peered from a face that looked like an unmade bed beneath a conk-in cap set at a jaunty, devil-may-care angle atop his scraggly graying hair. This was Caribou Bill and he sat puffing his pipe beside a moosehide stuffed polar bear amidst a conglomeration of trapper's equipment in his self-appointed job as curator of a roadside museum in Cranberry Portage, Man.

His was just one of several museums I visited during the past summer, while jaunting by rail to the Arctic's rim and westward to the sands of the Pacific Ocean. And now, with winter folding in around our heads, I try to light a fire on the field stone hearth and take each memory of my travels from where I tucked them away for future reference. These are the delightful travel experiences one encounters, which cost nothing to store and often prove to be priceless mental treasures over the years.

There was the mission museum at Churchill, where Eskimo artifacts are displayed in a small, smelly building supported entirely by the side of a peat bog. The odour one gets used to, for it exudes from leather cured over seal oil fires and bottled embryos of polar bears and other creatures peculiar to the Arctic. Beaded mukluks and jackets, leather clad Eskimo dolls and the bone carvings from tusks of fur-bearing seals fascinated me for hours, though the museum was little better than my living room. Some of the carvings are undoubtedly priceless for they are the early searchings of these people of the snows for artistic expression. Nowadays, soapstone carvings, created by a more commercially-wise race of Eskimos, though still artistically exciting, haven't the stark originality of those gathered beneath the roof of the Churchill museum.

Its curator was not what I would call a cheerful character. He spoke broken English and burst forth in a high tenor key when members of the CNR tour were not beguiled into buying several dozen post cards. Both his welcome and salesmanship were of a poor variety and could have spoiled the adventure for me on the shores of Hudson's Bay, had I not been enchanted by the authenticity of the collection.

Further south we stopped at Sam Wellar's "Little Northern Museum" at The Pass. This is a small gray shingled building where a retired school teacher, with this delightfully Dickensian name, has gathered literally thousands of items ranging from a robin's egg to the trappers from an Indian Chief's war-bonnet. The taxidermy executed to create a life-like appearance in hundreds of feathered replicas that line the main room of the museum, was pretty grim in some instances, but the owner of the remarkable array had a charm and enthusiasm for his retirement hobby that was most convincing. It was not, however, confined to any specific type of collection. It was just anything and everything that had come to hand to collect dust over the years and amuse a former educator.

I have saved the best for the last. I suppose all of us, at some time, are given to wondering what a multimillionaire does with his surplus funds. I discovered the use one westerner has made of profits gained by his faith in the future of prairie oil wells. Eric L. Harvey, Q.C., LL.D., of Calgary, Alta., and his family have generously established the Glenbow Foundation in that city, which will prove a boon to students of the future and preserve forever, pioneer days in its display of material dealing with the human and natural history of western Canada.

It is a frustrating experience for any writer to try and expound his or her enthusiasm in just a few words. A book could be filled with this undertaking which is not a public

museum as such, but is a tremendous store of literature, documents, paintings, Eskimos and Indian artifacts made available to students, authors, editors and others engaged in historical research. To me it seemed a pity that I was requested not to mention by name members of the staff when I recounted my visit to the Foundation. I feel, however, I must use up a few of my precious words to say that Mr. Harvey has chosen a fascinating group of enthusiasts to man this enterprise.

Three buildings have been purchased to house the Foundation, two lovely old homes, which in themselves hold a store of memories, and a small church the congregation has outgrown. I watched a woman lovingly reclaim an ancient book in her studio perched among the trellises on the third floor of one house. She has hoarded old papers, vellum, bookbinder's tools and leathers to make her work authentic and restore old manuscripts to their original beauty.

# Elect Five Members to Norval Church Board

Exceeding slightly a mission allotment of \$1200 in 1960, members of Norval Presbyterian Church accepted a similar allocation this year when they attended the annual church meeting. It followed a noon dinner served in the church basement.

Rev. G. L. Royal has recently moved to Godrich, and in his place Rev. B. A. Nevin of Boston, the interim moderator conducted the business meeting. General church savings were over \$5,000 this year, besides the contributions to missions. Five members of the board of managers retired this year and new appointments were made at the meeting, Harold McClure, Fraser McNabb, Elmer Carney, Frank Fendley and Albert Hunter. Continuing board members are Donald Clark, Sam McClure, Percy Leslie, William J. Reed, Chester Early, John V. McClure and Hugh Clark. Mrs. Arthur Clark continues as church treasurer. Chester Early succeeds Andrew McClure as board chairman.

Hyatt McClure and John M. McClure were added to the Cemetery Board at the meeting. Tribute was paid at the meeting to the memory of five members of the congregation who died in 1960, Mrs. Lavina Elizabeth Reed, Garfield McClure, James Eccles, William James McClure and John G. McClure. Members of the church session are Albert Hunter, Lester Brown, Tom McGee, Oliver Hunter, Craig McClure, Arthur McClure, Harold McClure, and James H. Davis.

**Enquires About Fair Prize Money.**  
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Dear Sir,  
Quite a time has elapsed since the contest winners at the Fall Fair were announced and we successful students felt very proud of ourselves, and secretly added up how many sundries the prize money would purchase. As time wore on with no payment in sight, we consoled each other by saying it would help out with our Christmas gift money, but alas, no money for Christmas, what now can we do? Easter next, a beautiful milk chocolate egg, or is it to be kept for entrance fees for the next Fall Fair? Come now you folks concerned, it's later than you think.  
Susan Throft

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**WORDS OF THE WISE**  
Give me a man with a good allowance of nose. When I want any good headwork done I choose a man — provided his education has been suitable — with a long nose. — Napoleon.

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