

*The Address—Mr. Nesbitt*

them and takes them to a United States port. Canada has not the wealth or resources of the United States, and at the present time we cannot afford to have such an elaborate system as they have. But I feel that we can afford to have some sort of system during those four summer months when there are so many small boats out on the lakes. It would not be difficult.

I have a suggestion to offer to the Minister of Transport which I should like him to explore. Use could be made of fishing tugs. They have diesel engines and are of modern construction. They have ship-to-shore radios and their captains know the waters. During the summer some arrangements should be made with them to take turns as "duty boat" and some sort of meteorological service should be made available to them. This is a situation that is quite serious and is likely to become worse rather than improve, because people who live in the inland towns and cities of western Ontario are using boats more and more on the great lakes. Often their knowledge of navigation and seamanship is bad, and they should have some supervision and should be looked after by some type of coast guard service.

The last thing I should like to deal with is the amendment of the leader of the C.C.F. party, which reads as follows:

... have deliberately returned to the policy of uncontrolled and unplanned private enterprise which resulted in the depression and unemployment of the pre-war years, and that Your Excellency's advisers have failed to undertake the economic planning necessary to cope with the serious problems now facing the Canadian people.

I suppose that at the present time the biggest problem that faces everybody in the world is, what is the role of government? That is the basic problem. Is the government to be allowed to decide what we shall do; the goods that shall be manufactured, who shall distribute them, and so forth; or is the role of the government to be drawn from the philosophy of the nineteenth century, that of an arbitrator, the personage who regulates and keeps the various pressure groups in the country from becoming too powerful and facilitates the development of free human beings? Perhaps that is not expressed too well but it is basically the argument that we have in the world at the present time.

There are many, and particularly those to your left, Mr. Speaker, who are always advocating that the government should decide what is good for people, what remedies they should receive, if times are not good, and what should be done for them. But I still insist, Mr. Speaker, that provided the government makes facilities available, it is much better that when the need arises people

should look after themselves in their own way; because in circumstances such as these it is a question of what people realize they need themselves and not a question of what someone else thinks they need.

I refer particularly to the subject matter of credit unions. We often hear talk about capitalism and free enterprise. Unfortunately capitalism or free enterprise is usually personified as having a large fat stomach, striped trousers and a silk hat. Some people wish to personify capitalism in that way because it suits their purpose. I am afraid that sometimes this picture has gone over with the general public, but there are many facets and different aspects to capitalism. Sometimes we have capitalism that is not dressed up in a silk hat and striped pants, but in overalls. I think the credit union movement in this country is probably one of the best examples of capitalism in overalls.

Credit unions have arisen because of a need. The need was to obtain small loans at low rates of interest. Normally the people who need small loans are those who can least afford to pay high rates of interest. This is much the same as the mutual insurance companies. When the straight line insurance companies would not insure farm property the farmers' mutuals came into being because of the need. Credit unions arose much in the same way.

It is true there are loan companies, but they charge very high rates of interest. I do not blame them entirely as they have a heavy overhead, big staffs to keep up and so on. They have to make a profit. But the credit union movement grew as a result of this condition. Funds were made available for small loans at reasonable rates of interest. Credit unions charge the borrower a maximum of one per cent per month on the unpaid balance on a day to day basis with no extras. Many credit unions charge less than this. They are able to do so because the work of the credit union is done on a voluntary basis, and there is no overhead to pay.

Credit unions as we know them today started in Canada in the 1930's, although a similar organization known as the *caisse populaire* existed in Quebec prior to that time. At the present time there are about 3,000 credit unions in Canada and about 1,000 *caisses populaires* in Quebec. The latter are set up on a parish or geographical basis, rather than an industrial or functional basis as the credit unions are. At the present time there are about 1,200,000 credit union members in Canada, while there are about 300,000 members in *caisses populaires*. The credit