

Alleged Failure to Reduce Unemployment

increased business profits—with which my hon. friend is familiar—than we put into it through increased productivity, or else prices are going to increase.

• (9:40 p.m.)

[Translation]

Mr. Oza Tétrault (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, I would like to say a few words on the unemployment which prevails in Canada, in the province of Quebec, and more particularly in the constituency of Villeneuve which I have had the honour to represent here since the 25th of June last.

Mr. Speaker, like several hon. members I have lived through the economic crisis of the 30s, and I think that what was to blame at that time was the monetary system. For almost 25 years the Ralliement Cr ditiste has been trying to make that clear to the old political parties of Canada.

At that time, people knew nothing whatever about the machinery of national and international finance. It was a young country and, like today, everything had to be built. However, at that time, like today, we did not apply the necessary measures to finance the projects in question, which would have given work to the unemployed, which would have contributed to build a Canada where it is good to live.

Mr. Speaker, people rebel against a system as inhuman as ours, and they are right. Everybody knows that Canada can feed 100 million people, without too much effort. Labour is not scarce, thanks to modern technology which makes it possible to produce a lot.

We could easily give to each and everyone a decent living and moreover, help the developing countries.

Mr. Speaker, recently, while visiting a small town in my riding, I met unemployed people who were unable to purchase the bare necessities of life.

I even visited a family where the father has a heart condition. He can no longer work and provide for the needs of his family. He is reduced to living miserably in a small house. His ten children sleep in beds without mattresses and without blankets. They are cold and they cough. How can these people believe that they live in a rich and beautiful country like Canada.

How can we feel fortunate to be living in Canada:

[Mr. Benson.]

Today, in 1969, Mr. Speaker, unemployment in Canada is so serious that two persons out of five are ill-fed, badly housed and badly clothed. Undoubtedly, as many people know, 80 per cent of the world's wealth is controlled by 18 per cent of the population. If war broke out today or to-morrow, the Minister of Finance, who said a little while ago that the opposition had no solution to offer, would find a solution quite rapidly.

This afternoon, the Minister of Forestry and Rural Development (Mr. Marchand) said that the opposition had magic solutions. I do not believe that the two ministers are in agreement, because the Minister of Finance told us that the opposition has no solution to offer.

We in the Ralliement Cr ditiste party, have been repeating over and over again for a long time, the solution is to use the Bank of Canada, which is controlled by the government and could easily finance its projects, as well as those of the municipalities and provincial governments. However nobody seems to listen to us. We are supported by economists who have thoroughly studied the question. Personally, I have been in the Ralliement Cr ditiste for 25 years and I sincerely believe that the government should make use of the Bank of Canada to help our population.

Mr. Speaker, I have listened to all kinds of speeches this afternoon. People were wondering whether there was enough credit available in Canada, enough machinery, enough building materials to speed up construction and give work to the unemployed. Let us consider the case of Val-d'Or, for instance, where there is one hospital which has outgrown the city's needs. There is sufficient land to build two hospitals such as the existing one but patients are waiting in line to be admitted. Doctors have great difficulties to practice medicine. They say there is no money to build a hospital. What they do not ask themselves is whether there are bricks mortar, manpower, machinery. It is still the powerful dollar which is controlling the world as it has been doing for the last 100 years.

Today, it is still the same old story: the two old parties are passing the buck to one another. In my view they are acting in the same way. As a matter of fact, I myself have lived with the Progressive Conservative party and with the Liberal party, and the more things change, the more they stay the same. Today the party in power is—

Mr. Roy (Laval): Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.