

What happened a few years ago when this group stood in this house and declared that money was created out of nothing? We were laughed to scorn. It could not be so! When social credit first appeared upon the scene in Canada and made certain proposals, it received the reply: Oh, fountain pen money. What has happened? We have been issuing fountain pen money now to the tune of anywhere from half a billion to three-quarters of a billion dollars a year. That has gone on because of the expansion of credit; and the mask has gradually been torn away. The people are saying, where did all this money come from? I stand up and boldly declare that it came from the end of a fountain pen.

Mr. FAIR: The Minister of Finance agrees.

Mr. HANSELL: Of course he does; he knows his business. If he does not agree, let him rise in his place and say now that he does not. He does agree. The mask is being gradually torn away.

When some of us went out into the country and said that banks did not lend their depositors' money, we were laughed at again. I suppose there are hon. members in the house today who may even now believe that banks lend their depositors' money. The mask is being torn away from that too. It has been discovered long since that banks do not lend their depositors' money. They lend freshly created money, which has come out of the end of a fountain pen and which eventually becomes depositors' money. Will any one deny that? I see no one rising in his place to deny it, and yet when years ago we said that we were laughed at.

How often have we heard our proposals talked about as being printing press money. Whenever I hear someone say that I say immediately that they do not know what they are talking about. The Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Claxton) is an example, but I shall come to him later. When we rose in our places and said that money could be issued to the tune of at least equating it with our production, we were branded as inflationists. How often have I heard the hon. member for Lethbridge (Mr. Blackmore) tell the Minister of Finance that inflation could be controlled! There is a way of handling a situation of that kind, and there is no inflation until your money reaches above your total prices. How often did the hon. member for Lethbridge tell the house that?—but we were referred to as inflationists! The mask has been torn off that boggy too, because we have controlled inflation in Canada to a remarkable degree. I am going to give the Minister of Finance

certain credit for that. What I am saying now is that he is doing what we said he could do and would have to do, and circumstances forced his hand to do it.

When we said that prices could be subsidized in the process of stopping inflation, everybody again cried out against this supposedly gross error. Was it an error? That is exactly what the Minister of Finance has been doing throughout the war. Therefore I say that the mask is being gradually torn away. The glorious light of a new economic philosophy is beginning to shine in. The one step that the minister must take is the issuing of money debt-free to the nation. When he has done that, he will have torn himself loose from the old orthodox financial order which is sinking this country deeper and deeper into debt and despair. We Social Crediters were the exponents of these things, and evidently the government listened to us when circumstances forced their hands.

May I return to the charge that what we propose is printing press money? We have heard it many times. We heard it from the predecessor of the present leader of the opposition. I judge from the speech made by the hon. member for Muskoka-Ontario (Mr. Macdonnell) that he would regard it as printing press money. The Minister of Labour (Mr. Mitchell) has ridiculed our suggestions along this line. No doubt he believes it is printing press money. I referred to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Judging by the remarks he has made he believes that it is printing press money. I come now to a very important point. The Minister of National Health and Welfare is responsible for the spending of more money than any other department of government; yet when we suggest to him that as an experiment he call upon the Minister of Finance to issue debt-free money through the Bank of Canada to the tune of the paltry sum of \$10 million to see whether or not it would have an adverse effect on the Canadian economy, what does he say? He does not say anything. When I challenge him to do that, he sits there silent and tries to look wise. Sometimes I think this business that we are in is like a huge poker game, the rules of which are against you and you cannot win. Strangely enough this minister who spends more money than any other department of government also administers united nations relief and rehabilitation money which comes from Canada. Here is the man who cries out against any suggestion of changing the rules of the poker game.

Mr. JOHNSTON: Because he always wins.