

*Distribution of Goods and Services*

The Prime Minister told me the other day that this would lead to inflation. Mr. Speaker, it cannot lead to inflation, because we are already suffering from it, but the Ralliement créditiste has never suggested that money should be printed inconsiderately. The Ralliement créditiste has always advocated a perfect balance between purchasing power and the goods and services available; this means that the money in circulation should be exactly proportionate to production.

Today, in Canada, we are not experiencing inflation, but deflation. I see the minister shaking his head—

When citizens from the constituency of Langelier do not have a cent in their pockets, is it inflation or deflation? When those people are unable to buy goods to be found in stores like Pollack or Le Syndicat de Québec, is it inflation or deflation? In my opinion, Mr. Speaker, inflation means having purchasing power without production. The money is therefore worthless, because nothing can be bought with it. The opposite is happening. Stores are filled with goods and the people are penniless. What do you call that? Inflation or deflation?

We are told about inflation because the government is looking for reasons to justify the poverty that prevails in Canada. Poverty is tolerated with an inconceivable and even shocking callousness, Mr. Speaker. For instance, some people lack the necessaries of life and some responsible people here tell us that inflation exists and that people must starve to death because our granaries are overflowing, and must be poorly dressed because there is a surplus of clothes.

Mr. Speaker, I knew the government in office in 1946, the same as in 1940.

● (3:50 p.m.)

I remember the recession when the Right Hon. Mackenzie King was prime minister and when the Right Hon. R. B. Bennett succeeded him in 1930. Mr. King came back in 1935, singing the same old song: We are faced with a recession. At that time, thousands of people, young and old, were lacking the necessities of life and were literally starving in Canada.

And suddenly in 1939, by a miracle, thousands of dollars were found for purposes of international slaughter, and money was never lacking to make destructive weapons.

Mr. Speaker, I am convinced that if the government of Canada is able to find billions of dollars for killing purposes, it should also

be able to find billions to guarantee the security and the freedom of the citizens of Canada.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** Order. I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member but his time is expired.

**Some hon. Members:** More, more.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** Has the hon. member the unanimous consent of the house to continue?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** The hon. member for Témiscamingue.

**Mr. Caouette:** I thank you, Mr. Speaker and I thank all my colleagues for giving me the opportunity to conclude my remarks and I shall not misuse the extra time granted to me.

If we can find billions of dollars for killing purposes as I said earlier, why could we not find some to live, to ensure security and freedom to those who clamour for them? Is the minister trying to tell me today that a family of four or five persons receiving welfare allowances of \$135 per month in Montreal, Rouyn-Noranda, in the constituency of Langelier, in Quebec City or in my hon. friend's constituency of Mercier can live on such a low income?

Every day, I receive letters that should be forwarded to the provincial government but the federal government provides 50 per cent of welfare allowances. Mothers who are deprived of the bare necessities at home ask for an extra \$10, \$15 or \$20 per month.

They write: "Mr. Caouette, one of my children is ill, but I cannot pay the doctor, because I have no medical assistance card. Since I need some extra money, could you write to the Quebec government to get it for me?"

All day long I have to dictate letters addressed to the Quebec government, asking for pension adjustments for destitute people in the province of Quebec. And if we must do it, it is because governments do not take their responsibilities.

I am convinced that the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion and the other government members receive letters like that. Therefore, they know the problem as well as I do. We know that there is no lack of products, because we have a very large quantities of everything in Canada. But we all know that it is the purchasing power which is lacking and even if we are called idiots or what