

*Export Development Corporation*

economy is the welfare of consumers, of all consumers. The consumer first! Such must be the slogan of any truly social, truly humane economic policy.

Those comments are confirmed in the "First Report of the Christian Doctrine Wealth, Committee of the Congressional Union of Scotland" dated May 10, 1962. It is a unanimous report from a group of British politicians, economists and Church leaders with the view of drawing up a Christian doctrine on wealth.

Here is what the report says on page 16, and I quote:

The notion that it is better to hold any position than none at all has made its way just as that other one that the first goal of the economic system is to offer employment—

We can only emphasize again what we said in the first part of this report, that the purpose of production is consumption, and, generally speaking, although man's work is a means whereby to achieve such purpose, it must not be considered only in the light of production. From a Christian point of view, it is wrong to say that a man should do the work that can be done by a machine; it is wrong to say that man should work without any physical or spiritual satisfaction. Those are nevertheless the very features of the society we live in, and this is so because man is forced to find some job or other if he is to meet his legitimate needs.

The report goes on to say:

It has been said that nobody should have anything for nothing. However, notwithstanding this so-called principle, social assistance, free schooling, family allowances, health services, all this is acknowledged the world over because it is realized that the community as a whole draws benefits when each individual shares in the common good.

Unemployment and other social benefits reaffirm the principle that it is a duty for the community to ensure the welfare of those who are unable to earn a living, on account of old age, health conditions or their inability to find a job.

Therefore, we must conclude that society will have an ever-growing obligation to distribute means of living among its members by ways other than paid employment.

• (4:50 p.m.)

Those ways of thinking have spread, Mr. Speaker, and on this side of the Atlantic, those people are not the only supporters of such measures.

On March 22, 1964, 26 economists, union leaders, newspapermen and political leaders, including the economist Robert Theobald, Mr. Gunner Myrdal of the Institute of International Economic Studies, Mr. Ben B. Seligman, director of the Research Section of the Retail Clerks International Association, Mr. Linus Pauling, Nobel peace prize winner as well as other famous American personalities, submitted to President Johnson a brief on the Triple Revolution in progress in the

[Mr. Laprise.]

United States at that time: the revolutions in the fields of cybernetics, armaments and human rights.

In connection with the cybernetic revolution, the signers of the brief state that the present economic system cannot provide employment to everyone and that adherence to the relation between income and employment as a basic method to distribute demand efficiently is now acting as a check to the almost unlimited capacity of a production system based on cybernetics.

They add and I quote:

An adequate distribution of the potential abundance of goods and services will only be carried out when we will understand that the main economic problem is not to know how production will be increased but how the abundance will be distributed. There is an urgent need to alter basically the mechanisms used to answer consumers' needs.

As a first step towards a new consensus, concludes the brief to president Johnson, it is essential to recognize that the traditional link between employment and income does not exist anymore. The economy of affluence may bring to every citizen comfort and security, whether they are engaged or not in what is generally called work. The wealth brought about by machines instead of by men always remains wealth. We recommend therefore that society, through appropriate legal and governmental institutions, undertake to supply each individual and each family with an adequate income that would be theirs by right.

The legislation brought before us by the minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce constitutes a residue of puritanism which no longer has its place in a world dominated by cybernetics and characterized by affluence. Solutions of 20 years ago, which the Liberals bring back to try to remedy the economic situation of Canadians, are obsolete cures.

The time, the energy and the money we waste would serve a better end if applied to a study of the solutions offered by hon. members from the Ralliement Cr ditiste.

Mr. Speaker, before closing I would add that we, from the Ralliement Cr ditiste, know and believe that we can supply other countries, at least in part, with the goods they may request from our industries.

At the present time, a delegation made up of 4 or 5 of our ministers is in Tokyo with a view to concluding trade agreements.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I believe that when entering into such agreements, we ought to be careful so that the conditions now prevailing will not become permanent, that is selling our raw materials to foreign countries even if we have to buy them back, and at a very high cost, once they have been processed.