

much discontent into the country, they have caused so much disunity that the malcontents have formed a party of their own."

I look over the house to-day and count the number of parties. It is a goodly number. First, we have the Progressive Conservative party. I name that party first because when the election is over it will be first. Second, we have the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation party. Then we have the Social Credit party. Then we have the unity party; then the Bloc Populaire party; then the Two Mountains party. Then we have the Liberal party divided into three parts. On the one hand we have the party of the hon. member for Wentworth (Mr. Corman), the party to which he referred in his speech in Hamilton as the "dead guinea pig party." Then we have the party of the hon. member for Hamilton East (Mr. Ross), which was referred to at the same meeting as the "nothing party." I would say that that is the largest group in the Liberal party. Then of course we have the official Liberal party, which is gradually dwindling.

This gives a true picture of the discontent, the disunity and the dissatisfaction that have grown up in this country during the last few years as a result of the administration given by the present government. It has been a government of bureaucrats, of orders in council, a government which in spite of its promises has neglected to take labour, farmer and other appreciable groups in this country into its confidence in order to discuss their problems with them.

I intend to-day to deal particularly with the income tax and manpower policies. There are many inequalities in the income tax act. If there is one act on the statute book that should be ironclad, that should not be subject in any way to the likes or dislikes of some administrator, that should not be subject to appeal by some member on behalf of a taxpayer, it is the income tax act. When the hon. member for Dufferin-Simcoe (Mr. Rowe) was speaking in the house the other day he referred to the tax on farmers, and the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Gibson) said that they were allowed to spread this over five years.

There is nothing in the statute which permits the government to do that, but apparently they can do it if the officials wish to do it. In other words, there is a law which permits the government to exercise its friendship or dislike in order to give to its friends a five-year spread, and to those it dislikes only one year. There are farmers who have had to pay it. Perhaps if they appeal to the department they may get that spread, but it should

not be necessary for a man to have to go to his member to have an appeal made on his behalf to the income tax department.

Mr. GIBSON: That is only where the entire stock is being sold, a dispersal sale. It is not a case of distributing annual income over a period of years.

Mr. HOMUTH: Quite right, but in some cases it has been taxed and in other cases it has not. If there is one law, I say, that should be ironclad and not subject to the interpretation of departmental officials it is the income tax act.

There is another provision in the income tax act which I think is grossly unfair. I refer to the taxation of the various ministerial pension and relief funds. I believe appeals have been made to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Ilsley) with regard to this, but nothing has been done. They have been advised that when the money is paid out in the form of annuities it will not be taxed. It cannot be taxed because these old ministers who have put in years and years in the service of their churches will not receive sufficient as annuities to be taxed. These are some of the inequalities that exist under this act.

One matter which is perhaps causing the most concern is the income tax on industrial workers. We have had a peculiar set-up since the war began. There has been tremendous extravagance since the war began; millions of dollars have been wasted in the construction of army camps and other necessary buildings.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Necessary?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. HOMUTH: Millions of dollars were spent in the construction of plants to make munitions of war. Much money was wasted because men had to stand idle while plans and specifications were changed. The people of this country realize that that was necessary and they did not find fault. They knew we were at war and they were willing to make any necessary sacrifice. But as we went along we built up in many of these centres an average of wages that was far beyond the wages paid in other parts of the country. The average of wages around some of these military camps had reached such a level that if a man knew one end of a hammer from another he could get a job tacking tar paper on buildings at seventy to seventy-five cents an hour, with double time on Sundays and time-and-a-half for overtime. Men left the farms to go into the towns and cities to earn these wages, and the result was that the whole industrial and agricultural economy in those districts was