

The Address—Mr. Caouette

7. A bill respecting the Canada Development Corporation.
9. Veterans Pension Legislation.
10. A bill respecting the C.N.R. Financing and Guarantee, 1970.
—or deficits paid up by the government.
11. A bill to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act.

About monetary reform, the Prime Minister claims that we spend our time talking about money. What are the Speech from the Throne or the bills all about? Money and control by the government and the present Canadian banking institutions. Nothing else. I continue the quotation:

12. A bill amending the Interest Act and the Small Loans Act.
13. A bill to amend the Bankruptcy Act.
- 14 and 15. Bills to amend the Canada-Finland-and-Canada-Jamaica Income Tax Agreements.
16. A bill amending the Crop Insurance Act.
17. A bill respecting Co-operative Credit Associations.

Those 17 bills are financial measures for the purpose of remedying the patent evils and the most flagrant injustices of the present financial system.

But that is not all. There are other measures covering control of atomic energy, pollution, development of imports, textiles, resource management, the anti-dumping act, budget estimates, the Auditor-General, the marketing of farm products, a commercial agreement with Australia, altogether 12 measures dealing with the operation, administration, and protection of the present financial system and of its power over trade, commerce, industry, agriculture, in short over everything. Thus, almost two-thirds of the bills the government intends to introduce have a marked financial orientation. The Prime Minister is aware of this.

We of the Ralliement créditiste are therefore justified in demanding that priority be given to financial reform, in saying that we must first achieve this reform instead of trying to curb its ill effects, in other words we wholly reject this whole policy of a poultice on a wooden leg which is the basis of the reforms proposed by this government and by the preceding ones.

The poor situation created by the financial system has had disastrous effects on the Canadian economy in general and on the welfare of the individuals in particular.

The Prime Minister, after telling us we had the highest living standards in the world, admitted a while ago:

It would be irresponsible to suggest that the economy is now in satisfactory condition. When costs rise more rapidly than productivity, when men and women are unable to gain employment, when a reasonable distribution of the wealth of Canada is denied to certain sectors or regions, then these are matters for deep concern.

Fortunately, our population, the number of Canadians engaged in productive employment—

increase

—the total volume of goods and services which they produce, and Canadian exports all continue to grow.

That is the statement of the government. Mr. Speaker, that is the way the government advisers analyse the present economic situation, according to the Throne Speech read yesterday by His Excellency the Governor General.

Further on the Speech mentions again the problem of exports:

Our exports in past months have achieved record heights.

[Mr. Caouette.]

That is the old liberal slogan, Mr. Speaker. We must export or perish. If our exports are growing, we will be prosperous! If they are declining we will be miserable!

23 years ago, on the 23rd of August 1947, a then liberal member, Mr. Azellus Denis, who is now a senator, said on Montreal station CKAC in a broadcast paid for by the federal liberal party, and I quote:

Whatever demagogues who are more than shortsighted may say, the liberals do not give anything to foreigners, because Canada produces 40 times more than Canadian can consume; and without exports and loans—when necessary—we would have overproduction, factories would close down, we would end up with starvation, unemployment and misery.

That is what the Liberals said in 1947! That is what they are repeating today while they are asserting somehow triumphantly, and I quote:

Our exports in past months have achieved record heights.

And they add that this is to be taken as a good omen for economic prosperity.

Let us see, Mr. Speaker, the value of those assertions on the part of the Liberals.

• (3:50 p.m.)

[English]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. I regret to inform the hon. member that his time has expired.

Some hon. Members: Continue.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is there consent that the hon. member continue?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[Translation]

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for their courtesy towards me. I will try to be brief.

Mr. Speaker, as far as Canada's foreign trade is concerned, here is what we could read in the September 22 bulletin of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics and I quote:

During the first half of this year, the strong foreign demand for Canadian products (and I purposefully underline the word "products") played an extremely important part in softening the impact of the limited demand in several important areas of this country, especially as regards consumers' individual expenses.

Which means, Mr. Speaker, that the demand for products—I mean the demand on the part of Canadian consumers—slowed down in Canada. We may ask ourselves why there should be such a slowdown of the demand on the part of Canadian consumers. Is it because all the needs have been met? Why then do so many families that live on the meagre benefits of unemployment insurance and on welfare have to tighten their belts? Simply because they do not have the required purchasing power.

But that means nothing to government advisers, all of whom advocate economic growth for the sake of growth, as well as full employment, accepting it as the end of economic activities and the main concern of governments.

According to government advisers, trade has shored up our economy. This is what the bulletin of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics for September 22nd 1970, has to say:

In the first six months of 1970, Canadian export trade of goods has been outstanding; exports have exceeded imports by