

capacity to make bricks out of straw. He is excellent at that sort of thing.

Now today I listened to my fellow Gaspesian speaking on the Speech from the Throne and dealing in the future. Everything is going to be sunshine for our grandchildren. He omitted many things.

Speaking of omissions, I want to say just a word about Senator Robichaud. I am an admirer of Senator Robichaud. I have known him in New Brunswick for years. He, too, found it necessary to do a lot of padding when he came to the Speech from the Throne. He gave us page after page on what the International Joint Commission is about. I am sorry to say that, either through forgetfulness or something worse, he omitted to mention the fact that when Elihu Root, the great American lawyer, sat down to draft the terms of that Commission—he was the Secretary of State then—an equally great Canadian lawyer, a fellow New Brunswicker of Senator Robichaud's, the Honourable William Pugsley, a member of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's Cabinet, had a hand with the great Elihu Root in drafting that document. I do not know whether Senator Robichaud knew about that, but I am afraid that the Honourable William Pugsley has not been given in this country the things that are due him. He was a great lawyer, a great man, and a great parliamentarian. We do not breed his kind any more.

Moreover, Senator Robichaud did not mention the letters that Sir Wilfrid Laurier wrote to Mr. George Gibbons regarding the International Joint Commission. Had he done so, he would have found something contrary to the general belief that Laurier was not a master of detail and that he knew little about economics or international affairs. Sir Wilfrid Laurier is one of my heroes of public life, just one on that side of the house, that party, and if one reads those letters he wrote to Sir George Gibbons in criticism of some of the proposals made by our American friends, it will be seen that he was a great, great Canadian. These are things, I am afraid, that we in this country forget.

I was just thinking this morning, the snows of 65 winters have melted from Parliament Hill since I first came here. I have been in Parliament, in the Press Gallery. I tried to become a member of the House of Commons. I was not as good as my friend across the way, however, and I failed to become the member for Gaspé, which he did, and I thought of it while he was making his curious remarks today. Everything was in the future. He spoke of housing. Housing! Great heavens, who can buy a house now? What can a young married couple do about a house? Here is a government that has been in office since 1968, and yet a young married couple in this country today cannot get shelter. He, himself, says that is true.

● (1510)

He did not mention inflation. I do not blame him for that, because his party has no policy regarding inflation, or certainly no policy about the consequences of inflation. What we face in this country today are the causes of inflation and the consequences, and nothing, nothing whatever in a practical way has been done about that. Oh, they tell us, there is not much we can do. They say, why, this is worldwide, it is international. Nonsense! That is not

true. Some 64, 65 or 70 per cent of everything consumed in this country is of Canadian origin.

I would ask the senator tomorrow night, or Friday night, to take his basket and go down to one of our supermarkets and try to buy a supply of food for his family for the coming week. Let him walk down the aisles and pick his food from the shelves and fill his basket. And when he takes his basket home let him examine the contents and see how much of it did not originate in Canada. You tell me that we cannot fix prices or control prices, because these things come to us from abroad. All this is nonsense. If I went to Rockcliffe today to buy a home, I would pay a price for it 70 per cent more than I would have paid three years ago. And that surely would have nothing to do with the price of a house in Washington. We are not dealing with external affairs—we are not dealing with foreign-produced goods. Our bread, our tea, our sugar, our bacon, our meat, anything we buy has its origin in Canada. And the consumer in Canada is paying for goods produced in Canada when he buys his goods at the store at inflated prices. And the cause of that inflation—

Hon. Mr. Langlois: Where do we grow tea in Canada?

Hon. Mr. O'Leary: It was a slip of the tongue if I said "tea".

Hon. Mr. Langlois: Or sugar?

Hon. Mr. Flynn: It doesn't come to us from the United States.

Hon. Mr. O'Leary: All right, I mentioned six items, let us take the other six.

Hon. Mr. Langlois: Sugar?

Hon. Mr. O'Leary: Sugar?

An Hon. Senator: Molasses?

Hon. Mr. O'Leary: Sugar? You had better read the speech by your boss in the house the other night when he said that the cartels of sugar were responsible for the price of sugar.

Hon. Mr. Langlois: It does not come from Canada.

Hon. Mr. O'Leary: And what are you doing about it? Nothing. What you are doing is pouring hundreds of millions of dollars into circulation. That is the principal and main cause of inflation in Canada. And all you are trying to do—and you are not trying to do much—is to cure the consequences. What are the causes?

I have here with me the estimates. Do you realize that to date the interest, not the principal but the interest, on the public debt is reaching \$3 billion a year? That is \$3 billion a year for the interest alone on the debt—and that is more than the total deficit year after year. And how does that come about? It comes about because not a minority government but a socialist-liberal coalition is dragging this country down into the welfare state and is bludgeoning this country into costs that mean this country will be driven into bankruptcy if we do not stop them.

When I first came to the Press Gallery in 1911, the total capital debt of Canada was \$350 million. I well remember Mr. Fielding making this announcement, which was grim, and Sir George Foster, the financial critic of the other