

Speaker do now leave the chair for the house to go into committee of ways and means, and the proposed amendment thereto of Mr. Ralston.

Mr. J. S. WOODSWORTH (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, last night I had not intended to speak for more than a very few minutes although I said nothing about "five" minutes. Perhaps the Speaker misunderstood me. I can quite understand that because very often I find it difficult to hear him from this end of the chamber. When it became impossible to secure order last night it seemed that the only thing that could be done was to wait until to-day. May I express my appreciation of the attitude of members opposite at this end of the chamber who did make an effort last night to maintain order while I was speaking. Since the debate has gone over until to-day I should like to extend my remarks a little further.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) in the earlier part of his speech yesterday gave a survey of the whole economic situation, and whether or not one agreed with him in every detail, I think we must all admit that it was a very fine presentation from his point of view. However, after that, although he had deprecated party politics in view of the crisis that exists, he himself proceeded to discuss matters in a most partisan way, even descending to ordinary ridicule of the positions and speeches of those of us on this side of the house. He referred to Mr. Massey and to an organization known as the League for Social Reconstruction. I think someone must have been telling the Prime Minister some cock and bull story; for he evidently thought to explode a bomb in the house: it proved to be only a dud. He said that Mr. Massey had travelled through the west ostensibly for the purpose of addressing Canadian Clubs, but in reality after his addresses gathering together the faithful in order to reorganize them and to present to them another program. In the words of the Prime Minister:

So plans for the future were reduced to writing, and as a result I hold in my hand a typewritten copy which was left by Mr. Massey with those whom he had called into conference in western Canada

The Prime Minister then proceeded to read into Hansard the manifesto as issued some two months ago by the League for Social Reconstruction. In answer to a question by the hon. member for West Edmonton (Mr. Stewart) the Prime Minister said:

This is by Mr. Massey, the new organizer of the Liberal party. This is the parlour socialism of that party.

[Mr. Marcell.]

Now, so far as I have been able to ascertain Mr. Massey had nothing whatever to do with the drawing up of that manifesto. It may be that he left some copies of it with some of his friends, for there are printed copies. I am very glad indeed to think that this kind of program has appealed to Mr. Massey, and I hope it will appeal to a great many members of this house, but certainly Mr. Massey is not an organizer for the League for Social Reconstruction, and the program of this organization is very different, I would say, from that of the Liberal party.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): May I ask if Mr. Vincent Massey is a member of the league?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Not so far as I know, but I really do not know. May I say that this term, social reconstruction, seems to have rather stuck in the crop of the Prime Minister. It was first used here in Canada, if my memory serves me, by the late Sir John Willison, or at least he was one of a group that had a great deal to say about social reconstruction just after the war. I do not think that the program of the group under discussion is just that which Sir John Willison would sanction, but the phrase it seems to me is a perfectly good one.

Last night I attempted to read an editorial which had appeared in the April number of the Canadian Forum giving something of the history and purposes of this organization. It is not a political party, but rather an educational organization, and seeks to draw into its membership those who are not content with the existing social order, but are trying in some constructive way to draw up plans which will help to reestablish a better social order than we have to-day. In fact it is working along the lines of the Fabian society of earlier days.

I can remember over thirty years ago while doing some reading at Oxford attending a meeting of the local Fabian society when Mr. Bernard Shaw came to address the students of the university. There is no doubt whatever that he and Sidney Webb, who is now Lord Passfield, and Mrs. Webb did an enormous amount toward collecting information concerning social conditions in Great Britain, and disseminating that information among the people. The new organization to which I have referred proposes to do in Canada a similar work. I read a few more lines from the editorial:

It is intended to publish pamphlets on various aspects of our Canadian problems, and gradually to build up a body of information on such