

The Budget—Mr. Caouette

Their heads are in the clouds, their feet on the moon and they do not understand a thing. Why? Because they are asked to reason according to the system.

Let us administer the taxes which we can levy. It is the system which the Postmaster General and Minister of Communications knows so well. He added:

Bertrand de Jouvenel recalls an Armenian proverb—

The minister is well-educated!

—which says: "The earth is like a pot and man is like a spoon in that pot." And the hon. member for Temiscamingue (Mr. Caouette) goes further and says: "We will give you bread." Mind you, not work, but bread.

There is an abundance of bread, but Canadians go without it. Is it more stupid to distribute bread than to let it become stale and say like the minister: Well, what you need is work.

Let the minister rise, with the other minister who attacked Social Credit. Let them give work to the unemployed in Montreal! That is what they want. Presently, they are not given any and they are told: Too bad, but we are in trouble, there is an inflation crisis. Does it mean we must let goods deteriorate in stores, bread grow mouldy and the unemployed tighten their belts? Every budget harps on the same string. As far as work is concerned, we cannot offer them any. There are no jobs for the unemployed in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, what solution is proposed? It is said that the Créditistes state: You will give bread and not work. The minister says, and I quote:

[*English*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member but his time has expired.

Some hon. Members: Continue.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for the hon. member to continue?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank my colleagues from both sides of the house for always being so kind to me, but I think what I am saying is of interest to them. Even the minister is happy for I caused the scales to fall from his eyes so that he will see things more clearly and refrain from saying all kinds of silly things with respect to Social

[Mr. Caouette.]

Credit as he often does, because I sincerely believe that the Postmaster General and Minister of Communications is an intelligent man and that, should he take the trouble to study what Social Credit is, he would have been a Créditiste for a long time now and would have left the ranks of Canada's financial sharks. It is hard—I do not ask the Holy Ghost to descend upon him—but I ask him to use his judgment before embarking on a course of action or making a statement.

The minister said, and I quote:

Socialists and Communists are more honest than that; they recognize at least the value of work, and agree that the fundamental principle on which every society must rest must be some sort of reward proportionate to the effort, to the initiative and to the economic contribution of the individual.

Are there people who refuse to contribute to the economic expansion of their country? All the people I know, who are getting welfare benefits, are eager to find a job, which would allow them to earn \$5,000 or \$6,000 a year, instead of receiving allowances of \$125, \$130 or \$135 a month, to take care of the needs of a family of five or six dependents at home. Those people would like to work. Does the minister give them work? No. They are told that things are not going well. We must wait for the economy to pick up again.

In the meantime, taxes are increased, we talk about welfare. All those who receive welfare benefits in Canada would gladly contribute to increase the Canadian production, were they given the means to achieve that, and were they paid to do it, instead of being paid for doing nothing. Indeed, if one of them is caught working, he is deprived of his benefits.

If he works and makes \$100 a month, he may lose his \$150 monthly welfare allowance. Obviously, this man will not be anxious to go to work.

However, most Canadians want to work. We, Créditistes, know that work is necessary, but work is not the purpose of a national economy. The purpose of the economy, in Canada as in any country, Pope Pius XI described it in 1931. The Postmaster General and Minister of Communications, who is a Catholic as I am—at least he is a Christian—should understand that. Pius XI said that economics will be soundly established and will reach its true objective, only when it gives to all—not only to the Grits, the Tories, the Créditistes and the supporters of the NDP party—to everyone his share of the goods nature and industry can provide. That share should be sufficient to insure to each and everyone at