

Then, Mr. Speaker, not only would we have less disorder in this country, but we would find more co-operation and, above all, more understanding. We would have an efficient government instead of a noodle government which sets objectives for itself but never gets any results. Those noodles are not even good enough to make nice soup.

Mr. Speaker, those are the few remarks I wanted to make on the motion before the House. The Progressive Conservatives do not propose anything, they only blame the government for not doing what they themselves failed to do 10 years ago. Let us find an answer: instead of playing from red to blue and from blue to red, let us play "Social Credit", and things may then take a turn for the better.

[English]

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of State for Science and Technology): Mr. Speaker, I listened carefully this afternoon to the affable hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings (Mr. Hees) and listened particularly to hear if he would speak to the motion his party has brought before the House. I was not surprised he did not choose to speak to the motion, as I suspect he realized that his party had made a ghastly mistake. The hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings is a man who, if he has nothing else, has a well tuned political sense. Nor was I surprised that other opposition spokesmen chose to ignore the motion in their speeches. After all, they are opposition party spokesmen and it is not their function to draw attention to the progress of the country. I think the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings knew he would do this if he discussed the motion, and that is why he chose not to debate it. He sensed that the motion would focus attention on the considerable achievements we have witnessed in the country in the last few years.

I am not sure whether the hon. member reads newspapers. He may, and this may have had something to do with his reluctance to deal with the issue. For instance, I am looking at yesterday's *Ottawa Citizen*. There is a story entitled, "Production up—manufacturers go on a binge". Let me read one paragraph:

• (1610)

Manufacturers went on a sudden binge in April boosting output by 2.6 per cent, or an annual rate of increase of 30 per cent. At the same time, they received orders worth 7.3 per cent more than orders in March.

A similar surge in exports occurred in both April and May, up 7 per cent from March.

I am delighted to see that the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings has resumed his seat. Newspapers reports are replete with stories of increased production, expanded export shipments, higher sales of durable goods. I see a headline here "April Shipments of Paperboard up 19.3 per cent". Here is another. This is from the *Montreal Gazette*; I am quoting from the issue of June 13.

Canada experienced an export boom last month, with shipments to all countries rising 21.6 per cent to \$1.89 billion from \$1.56 billion in May last year.

They brought the cumulative total of exports for the first five months of this year to \$7.78 billion, up 10.5 per cent from \$7.05 billion a year ago.

Employment Incentive Programs

There was a 21.5 per cent boost in shipments last month to the most important market, the U.S., rising to \$1.29 billion from \$1.06 billion in May, 1971.

Exports to the United Kingdom rose 25.9 per cent to \$167.7 million last month from \$133.2 million a year earlier. Japan was again Canada's third best customer last month, with shipments there rising to \$107.5 million, up 59.5 per cent from \$67.4 million in May, 1971.

I can give many examples of this kind of progress. I intend to give a few more in the course of my remarks, but first I should like to deal with some of the assertions made by the spokesman for the Conservative party. His analysis seemed to go along these lines: there is likely to be a serious problem with respect to slackness in consumer demand—aggregate purchasing power may not have been his phrase; I know it was the phrase used by the spokesman for the New Democratic Party, the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands (Mr. Douglas). Well, in my opinion one of the best indices of aggregate demand is retail sales. I have just seen the figures for April. I want to cite these figures and then ask hon. members whether they think there is any weakness in aggregate demand. Retail sales jumped 6.3 per cent on a seasonally adjusted basis in April, the largest monthly gain ever recorded; I repeat, the largest monthly gain ever recorded.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Gillespie: I ask the hon. member. Is that evidence of weakness of demand? The hon. member then went on to suggest that because he senses this weakness, we should lower taxes on manufacturers immediately as of July 1, without waiting for the end of the year. I have already cited some of the export figures and some figures with regard to the retail trade. Figures respecting sales of durable goods show similar increases and, as I say, I will put further figures on the record in due course.

Mr. Hees: May I ask the minister a question?

Mr. Gillespie: I think the hon. member wants some figures with respect to industrial output. I will put these on record in the course of my remarks.

Mr. Hees: What I did want to ask the minister was whether he would put on record the latest unemployment figures and then tell me whether he is satisfied with them.

Mr. Gillespie: The hon. member has had his opportunity to speak—

Mr. Hees: All the question requires is a yes or no answer.

Mr. Gillespie: Nobody in this House is satisfied with the unemployment figures.

Mr. Hees: Well, then, don't tell us everything is fine.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The minister has the floor. I invite hon. members to direct their remarks through the Chair.

Mr. Gillespie: The hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings is an affable person. He is also a compulsive