

The Economy

people paying interest rates, and young people. And we must provide social services. We have built houses but there are more to build. And we agree that the needs of all those people are real. But we must stop creating new needs because we do not have the means to pay for those already created. So we must either stop creating needs or we must establish new priorities and I think that the government is quite prepared to discuss and readjust its priorities in co-operation with the Opposition and the people, to make them more efficient, more sensible and more realistic.

There is something strange in this debate, Mr. Speaker, which goes to prove that there is still some hope. In its motion, the Social Credit party did not mention our deficit. I wish they had because in our party the election campaign had already begun and mention was made of the government deficit.

I think that if the opposition, the press and anyone else want to denounce the government deficit, they should have the honesty to tell what government services they are prepared to cut off.

There should be co-operation among governments and I think that here we have a lesson to learn. We tried to act with the province of Quebec as we did with the other provinces but we have failed up to now with regard to the sales tax. However, it is very important the various governments, provincial and municipal, work together toward job creation as I consider it to be an essential prerequisite.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order. I regret to interrupt the hon. member, but the time allotted to him has now expired.

Some hon. Members: Carry on!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Does the House give its unanimous consent to allow the hon. member to continue.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Tessier: Thank you Mr. Speaker and I also want to thank my colleagues for their kindness. I think that my colleague from Rimouski (Mr. Allard) would want me no doubt to change the tone of my comments. I would like to do so but on the other hand, I would feel that I am betraying those who elected me here.

I will therefore try to conclude my remarks as rapidly as possible, Mr. Speaker, by telling you that my primary objective is to give work to all those who can and must work. However, the question I wish to share with all the members of this House is at what price could we give work to everybody and naturally what type of work could we find to give back to our workers their right to work? It is all very well to talk about employment but if tomorrow morning for instance and that is a fact which we have experienced in my area, we decided to build campers and there were no buyers I wonder if that is

[Mr. Tessier.]

what is really meant by creating employment and it is precisely at this stage that we must be realistic enough to know in advance what will have to be produced tomorrow and to whom those products may be sold. If our consumer goods cannot be sold, how do you expect the system to survive, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker, asking each other questions will obviously lead us nowhere and today's motion proves it once again blatantly. How can serious and responsible public administrators have any faith in politicians who keep advocating demagogical and unrealistic solutions? What credibility, Mr. Speaker, can an institution such as this parliament retain when it tolerates such demagogical endeavours which have become synonymous with inefficiency and dishonesty? It is high time to put an end to farcical situations such as we have experienced today if we want to restore the necessary credibility of this House and ourselves as members of parliament, which seems to me to be one of our major problems at the present time.

I think that the opposition must go a lot further regarding the proposals it made and I have to denounce today the absence of the Socred members who on a day set aside for the opposition have been noted for their absence during the study of a motion which should particularly interest them and which should have given them an opportunity to present us with solutions. I am even wondering today if we did the right thing when we accepted to allow them to retain the status of a recognized party when this same party presents us with solutions such as those we have heard today, yet is absent for all practical purposes when it comes to making this House work efficiently.

Mr. Charles-Eugène Dionne (Kamouraska): Mr. Speaker, I am glad to be given the opportunity to participate in this debate even though I got here a few minutes late. I had to go to the CBC studios for the recording of a program dealing with social credit. I think it is worth-while talking about it and I even feel it is the only way out of the economic problems we are experiencing now.

When I got in the House, I heard the hon. member for Compton (Mr. Tessier) say that it was kind of a waste of time to discuss this motion today. I naturally respect his opinions. He has a right to voice his feelings about it. But I would like to know if he has a solution to our unpaid and unpayable debts situation. Ever since I was elected to this House—and I have said this before—I have not heard a single minister say that he was aiming at finding ways and means to pay the public debts. I see what they can do and I see that they have great difficulty in doing it. The present situation and what is going on in the House lately are eloquent proofs of it.

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All they can do is try to pay the interest on our debts. Finally, this system boils down to a formula of management for the country that no Canadian citizen is allowed to use for