

the cities, a decrease in agricultural production, a curtailment of industrial activities and, finally, unemployment. That is the problem which must be faced.

It must be admitted that the government has endeavoured to restore quickly our peacetime economy, but I humbly suggest that we should continue to guarantee stable prices for agricultural products and to encourage our young people to settle on farms.

Indeed, family allowances are a great help to farmers in looking after the needs, the education and the training of their families. The amounts paid to them bring about a greater increase of wealth on the farms than in the cities. It is true, no doubt, that the children of workers benefit from this important grant, but the sums handed to farmers' children contribute to a higher agricultural production, to a more careful education and to a special vocational guidance for these children. It is to be hoped that these family allowances may enhance the scientific development of agriculture and that our future farmers may thereby become known as the best in the world. Given the proper development of farming methods and the stabilization of industry, our country will be assured of a foremost part in future world activities.

In concluding, Mr. Speaker, may I be allowed to make to the hon. members of this house a special plea for Canadian unity. It is now more timely than ever to avoid deluding ourselves and being carried away by mere words. If we love our country, if we wish greatness and unity for it, we must put aside all racial and religious prejudices, all differences originating in local difficulties, avoid all sectional rivalries, so that we may think, act and speak as Canadians should. Do you not believe that were a part of this country to refuse to recognize the rights and opinions of other parts, an impassable barrier for our descendants would thereby be erected which would create chaotic conditions for our children? The sole material object of our lives is to prepare the future of our descendants. To a certain extent the French-speaking members of the house have expressed a strong wish to promote a truly Canadian feeling in this country. They all endeavour to speak both official languages. We acknowledge the right of each and every one to entertain personal views, but we deny them the privilege of refusing the same freedom to those who speak our tongue.

I do not claim that certain hon. members are devoid of Canadian spirit and feeling. On the contrary, I believe each one of us is anxious to develop our country and to create a national idea. Then, once and for all, let us place our

cards on the table; let us be straightforward and put away from our minds the thought that when someone presents a measure for changing the name of a holiday or for designing a distinct national flag, he does it with the purpose of changing the constitution. We wish to live as Canadians, under Canadian statutes and a Canadian flag, in a united and peaceful Canada.

Mr. LIGUORI LACOMBE (Laval-Two Mountains): Mr. Speaker, the taxation levied upon cooperatives by this budget is an unfortunate move. Nothing was neglected by religious and civil authorities when the problem came up of promoting cooperation in all domains, and especially in the agricultural domain. But, when preparing this budget, did we pay any attention to the substantial subsidies granted to cooperatives by the provinces? Is the government forgetting the devotion of our religious authorities toward the fruitful work of cooperatives? We should not give in to evil influences whose object is only the interests of a few instead of those of the whole nation. Profiteering capitalism will not retreat in front of anything. It will even walk over the corpse of our cooperatives in order to attain its selfish interests. The taxation upon cooperatives built up by the sacrifices of the poor and humble is the worst item of this budget.

The government received innumerable protests against this tax. Every member of this house was warned beforehand. I addressed personally to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Ilsley) several resolutions from cooperatives in my riding and my province, protesting against this tax. Consequently it is with regret that I realize that the government seems to ignore the expression of public opinion based this time upon simple common sense. I beg that it amend the budget resolutions before it is too late. Let the government exempt cooperatives from income tax. Let it not destroy by a stroke of the pen an economy built up after thirty years of sacrifices, devotion and unselfishness. Instead of imposing a tax upon cooperatives, the government should revive subsidies to agricultural county fairs, which were suspended during the war. It would thus foster the breeding of pure bred cattle and the improvement of our much needed dairy industry. On the contrary, on the one hand, agricultural cooperatives are taxed, and, on the other, agricultural fairs are deprived of class B subsidies which are necessary to their survival. The government is all the more stingy when it has no reason to be so, in the same proportion that it is prodigal toward foreign countries.