

*Export Development Corporation*

Finally, to explain the role of the department which he was going to manage, the Minister for Regional Economic Expansion stated:

This department aims at increasing the possibilities for productive employment and facilitating access to these jobs.

Such then is the philosophy of the government. To provide work and jobs, as if the objective of the economy was to keep the men busy and to make them work.

Why does this government reason as people did 20 years ago? Why does the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion do likewise? And why does the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Pepin) reason the same way, though he is an economist?

Because workers can only earn their bread through hard work. Because, in their opinion, man was born to toil, to produce. If he ceases to be a means of production, he loses any right he may enjoy of benefiting from it. That is why the trend is to set up as many jobs as possible. That is why statesmen, politicians, economists and businessmen are hand in glove with each other. Thus they extol full employment to the point of creating useless jobs, if they must, so as to keep the people busy.

Let us remember, Mr. Speaker, some of the winter works programs—

• (4:40 p.m.)

[*English*]

Maintenance of employment is wanted for its own sake and not simply to make a plan for social security work more easily. It is better to employ people on digging holes and filling them up again, than not to employ them at all; those who are taken into useless employment will, by what they earn and spend, give useful employment to others. It is better to employ people, however the money for paying their wages is obtained, than not to employ them at all.

[*Translation*]

Our good friends to our right will surely have recognized one of the high priests of British socialism, William H. Beveridge, in this excerpt from the book, *Full Employment in a Free Society*, pages 17 and 147.

Another economist, whom our socialist friends esteem highly and who is also recognized as an authority in Canadian government circles, Lord Keynes, was reported by the Canadian Press to have said at the time of a visit to Ottawa on September 4, 1947, and I quote:

England needs certain products, but it has neither the money to pay for them nor the goods to pay her imports through exports. Canada and the

United States which helped England considerably during the war must now continue to ship their goods to that country to keep their economy moving and provide employment for their workers.

Such reasonings reveal the absurdity of the present system. It is easy to believe that England is happy to accept gratuities coming from Canada. But to claim that Canada should adopt a policy of gratuities to strangers, merely to give work to Canadians, verges on absurdity if not insanity.

In his book entitled *Tomorrow's Trade* and published in 1945, the American economist Stuart Chase was courageous enough to suggest more reasonable solutions. I quote:

Americans, he said, lend dollars to foreigners; foreigners use those dollars to pay for their imports from the United States. Those exports give a stimulus to production and employment in the United States; but foreigners benefit from the goods while American taxpayers lose everything.

If we must intervene to alleviate unemployment, he added, why not distribute directly our goods to those in need of them in our own country, to Americans themselves?

We of the Ralliement Cr ditiste are opposed to the philosophical concept implied in Bill C-183 and advocated by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and his colleague the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

When the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion states that:

The first imperative of social justice is to provide enough jobs—

—we reply, with Pope Pius IX, that the economic body will be soundly constituted and will achieve its aim only when it will provide all its members and each of them with all the goods and resources of nature and industry as well as the truly social organization that society has the means to provide them with.

As for the philosophy of the government, of the Minister of Industry Trades and Commerce and of the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, it tends to make believe that the objective of the economic activities is to provide everybody with work, to multiply the number of jobs. Besides, we of the Ralliement Cr ditiste, endorse the opinion of Father Georges-Henry L vesque, whom the Minister for Regional Economic Expansion knows well. I quote:

The economy must not strive to create wealth for its own sake, but to provide for the requirements of all and to produce goods which actually enrich all the citizens of a country. In economics parlance, we would say that the goal of the