

*The Address—Mr. Fortin*

All the time, we have stressed national production and the means to increase it. Through our policies of assistance to industry and subsidies of all kinds, the productive sector of our economy has increased its efforts and efficiency, so that gradually, the machine has replaced man at an accelerated yet normal rate.

The citizen, who was above all a producer, progressively became isolated from production and, thus, the security of his income was jeopardized.

The Ralliement créditiste has always maintained not only that human beings produce wealth, but that they also are agents of consumption and that, consequently, the first responsibility of any government is to ensure human being security of income or, in créditiste terms, a minimum income so that they may have their share of the national wealth.

But this can only be achieved through a thorough monetary reform with a view to, at long last, having money serve man. Our needs are ever increasing. The cost of living keeps going up. Unemployment is beyond control because of the government, and this is inevitable in the present economic situation because of the modernization of our industries which tend to produce more at lower costs.

As a result, human beings are once again denied their share of the wealth as consumers.

Mr. Speaker, a national dividend and compensated discount are precisely the type of legislative and monetary measures that would enable every citizen to get his share of the wealth and to play his full role as a consumer. We claim, and rightly so, that only in consumption does production achieve its goal and value.

During the third session of the twenty-eighth parliament, in view of the present economic situation, we will endeavour with renewed vigor to make the government understand the importance of the consumer, of every Canadian citizen, and the urgency for the members, regardless of their political affiliations, to adopt legislation to ensure every citizen his rightful share of the national product.

Mr. Speaker, more than ever we, parliamentarians, must give priority to the interest of the citizens over political interests, and fulfil our role as spokesmen for the Canadian people in this supreme institution of parliament, that the people might renew their confidence in democratic institutions.

The old man who must be content with his meagre pension to survive, the mother who is scoffed at each time she cashes her family allowance cheque for \$6 or \$8 a month in 1970, the student who year after year is refused a scholarship and must go into debt and who during the summer months tried to work but could not find employment, the unemployed who spends his days going from one manpower centre to another, from one counselor to another, and spends his evenings completing his education with other adults and who, finally, is a gain refused a job, the industrial milk producer discouraged in his attempts to improve his herd and his

[Mr. Fortin.]

production, whose income is limited and who, besides, is taxed for his work, and who gives up one day or the other, dairy production, the wheat producer who is paid for not producing, all Canadians expect us, parliamentarians, to do more than just make speeches.

● (5:40 p.m.)

If we should continue to be satisfied to listen to such empty speeches from the throne as the one we have heard recently, it would not be surprising to see the feelings of frustration now shared by thousands of Canadians change to feelings of anger and revolt.

It is not sure that the peace and social stability referred to in the Speech from the Throne will be our lot for very long.

Mr. Speaker, I am worried about the economic and social future of our country if the government does not immediately take concrete steps to satisfy those thousands of Canadians who at present are denied their share of the national production.

Seconded by the member for Bellechasse (Mr. Lambert), I should like to move following sub-amendment to the amendment proposed by the official opposition:

That the amendment be amended by replacing the final period by a coma and by adding, immediately after, the following words:

"and we particularly regret the failure of the government to increase family allowances as a first step towards the establishment of a system ensuring a guaranteed annual income which would facilitate the advent of a just society.

[English]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel):** Hon. members have heard the amendment moved by the hon. member for Lotbinière.

[Translation]

I would like to ask the hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Fortin) if he has completed his remarks.

**Mr. Fortin:** Mr. Speaker, I was just reaching the end.

To really show the significance of this subamendment and also the importance of stopping fighting inflation on the back of the Canadian taxpayer, it is necessary to understand the contents of this subamendment. Interest rates are excessively high and they should be reduced.

In the constituency of Lotbinière, *La Fonderie de Sainte-Croix* needs coal which it buys from its supplier, Lasalle Coke Company. Besides, it is the only supplier of the kind in Canada.

The cost of a net ton of foundry-size coal was \$38.25 in 1966, and \$38.75 in 1967. The same ton cost \$40.25 in 1968, \$43.25 in 1969, \$48.25 last March 23, and \$59.25 on September 29. Therefore, the directors of *La Fonderie Sainte-Croix* are getting worried about that, and rightly so, since their costs have greatly increased. This is a factor of inflation, according to the reports of the Young Commission.

I obliged to the request of the directors of *La Fonderie Sainte-Croix*. Upon the request of the Lasalle Coke Com-