

The Budget—Mr. Corriveau

suffering and hardship it imposes on those who are unemployed and on the families who depend upon them for maintenance. It involves a loss of self respect, a loss of human dignity and eventually a loss of hope, and that is the most serious thing of all. As long as people have some hope that conditions will be better, they can hang on. Once they have lost hope, they become the material out of which social unrest is created.

A man who once sat in this House and for whom I have great respect, J. S. Woodsworth, often used to quote Edwin Markham; the long, long patience of the plundered poor. I think this government should be warned that there is a limit to the patience of the plundered poor and that the people will not forever be made the victims of the government's economic errors, of its arrogance and its indifference. I hope if this debate has done nothing else it will have shaken the government out of its lethargy, and within the next few days we will see it bring down some measure which will at least partly alleviate the suffering which it has brought upon the people of Canada.

[Translation]

Mr. Léopold Corriveau (Frontenac): Mr. Speaker, Canadians are now faced with a choice between a brilliant economic future and poverty, namely a choice between priorities and means to fight inflation.

How will they ever come out of this cluster of needs and aspirations?

Mr. Speaker, this is the question I would like to submit to the House. I would not want to be taxed with parochialism but since I am relatively a newcomer here, I would rather deal with matters I am closely concerned with because they condition the life of the whole community in my constituency of Frontenac.

As I mentioned earlier, there is presently a confused cluster of aspirations and needs which are merely impossible to implement or to satisfy completely and simultaneously because of the limited financial resources of the government.

In its first report published in 1965 the Economic Council of Canada set its goal very clearly, namely a maximum annual price increase of 2 per cent and a maximum unemployment rate of 2 per cent also.

It would be ludicrous to remind hon. members that these two objectives have never been fulfilled. This may be the reason why this agency gives such importance to the fight against poverty in its last report. Would this tend to prove that the Canadian economy did not operate as expected?

The Canadian government, being aware of this situation, has enacted legislation creating the Department of Economic Regional Expansion, which has already produced tangible results across the country, and my area is no exception. Indeed, grants of the order of \$715,810 to seven industries have helped create 482 jobs. At the present time, several other projects are under way and should straighten out the situation, economically and socially.

[Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands).]

Evidently, we have new goals to reach, but to succeed we must see what the reality is, according to some indicators.

On October 1, 1969, Quebec's population stood at 6,002,000 inhabitants, that is 28.3 per cent of Canada's population.

In 1961, Quebec included 28.8 per cent of the country's population, as compared to 28.9 per cent in 1941. Therefore, Quebec's population does not grow according to an ascending curve consistent with today's requirements.

In 1969, the gross provincial product, according to market prices, amounted to \$19.88 billion, that is 25.4 per cent of the gross national product. In 1965, the corresponding figure was 25.9 per cent, and in 1961, 25.7 per cent. Also in this field, we can note a decreasing curve, lower than the population curve.

The unemployed are distributed over a large territory, made up of 1,600 municipalities. Paralysis, the reason of the ultra-conservatism prevailing among so many workers, is a serious problem, a source of trouble and of social unrest. Hon. members are looking for solutions; technocrats are preparing programs; economists are studying and analyzing; intermediary bodies are demanding and condemning; editors are talking and thinking. Mr. Speaker, the need is for people—for us and for those ready to accept the challenge—to find the clue to the riddle.

It is high time that we located the evil and made a diagnosis implying practical solutions. Everybody can contribute part of the solution through a humane approach to the problem.

Mr. Speaker, knowing our situation, we are now more determined than ever to take the necessary corrective steps and turn our liabilities into assets. The Canada of tomorrow will be as we shall build it, starting in 1971, since we are able to conceive our future society. All the issues I have raised become determining factors.

In fact, anyone listing the dangers to be fought, anyone examining the conditions required for our economical and social development, anyone looking at the experience gained by other countries to find a policy that would fit Canada will understand that our industrial development has top priority since it means employment and productivity. To this end, we have understood we should increase our production so as to reach not only our domestic market but also the world markets.

Although our industrial structure is weak and our production ill-oriented, we sell our surplus to certain sectors. For example, Quebec is producing 64 per cent of clothing, 57 per cent of textiles, 57 per cent of hosiery, 54 per cent of tobacco, 46 per cent of leather and 37 per cent of furniture. We should be glad of such statistics. However, because of dumping of foreign products and our faulty marketing organization we find competition very hard and this implies quite low salaries which do not correspond to the requirements of our consumption society.

For instance, in the footwear industry, the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion has initiated the creation