

Motion Respecting House Vote

I have in hand a document which was tabled in the Senate on January 31 last—not so long ago—following a question of Hon. Jean-François Pouliot who had asked what were the countries of the world which had benefited from Canadian loans and at what interest rate. Mr. Speaker, it is worthy of notice that, at the very moment the Canadian people are being burdened with new taxes, at the very moment when the government says that it is unable to restart the Canadian economy, we have been lending, under the Colombo plan, an amount of \$3 million, at an interest of $\frac{3}{4}$ of 1 per cent, for a 50-year period, plus 10 years of grace, which means 60 years. The Canadian government is lending money at a $\frac{3}{4}$ of 1 per cent, when it is unable to find money at a lower rate than 5, 5½ and 6 per cent. When provincial governments are compelled to borrow at 7½ per cent, the Canadian government manages to lend money at $\frac{3}{4}$ of 1 per cent for periods up to 60 years.

To India we made a \$70 million loan, of which more than \$50 million were at zero per cent interest, not $\frac{3}{4}$ of one per cent interest, but zero per cent, under the pretext that we must give aid to underdeveloped countries. We do not have to go to India to see people in misery. You can see whole poverty-stricken families not only in the city of Montreal, but in every place in Canada where there are unemployed who must live on \$36 a week. No need to go to India to see misery when we have plenty at home, but we do not have the courage and we are too heartless to settle those problems.

To Korea, we have made a 37-year loan of \$1 million at 3 per cent interest for the development of the dairy industry.

To Pakistan, we have made a loan of \$44,263,000 at zero per cent interest for a period of 50 years plus 10 years of grace, that is 60 years.

We lent Thailand \$1 million at no interest for a period of 50 years.

We lent the Caribbean Islands \$1.8 million at no interest for a period of 60 years.

We lent Jamaica \$8.25 million at an average of $\frac{3}{4}$ of 1 per cent for the construction of rural schools, a bridge, a seaport, a radio system, to buy equipment, to undertake public works, to build small bridges and low-cost housing. Will we have to ask Canadians to go live in Jamaica in order to obtain loans at $\frac{3}{4}$ of 1 per cent interest?

These are government responsibilities and yet we are asked to raise the income tax.

In 1966, in the space of a single year, we lent Trinidad and Tobago \$4.89 million at $\frac{3}{4}$ of 1 per cent interest.

To the easternmost West Indies, to help the development of the dairy industry, we loaned \$250,000 without interest for 60 years.

In Latin America, to Argentina, we loaned \$756,000 at $\frac{3}{4}$ of 1 per cent interest for 60 years.

We loaned Malaysia \$1,720,000 at $\frac{3}{4}$ of 1 per cent for 37 years.

The Central American Bank for Economic Integration was loaned \$3,780,000 at $\frac{3}{4}$ of 1 per cent interest for 60 years.

We loaned Chile \$8,640,000, at $\frac{3}{4}$ of 1 per cent for 60 years for part of the loan, and 3 per cent interest for 37 years for the balance of the loan.

We loaned the Republic of El Salvador, for port facilities, the sum of \$3,240,000 at $\frac{3}{4}$ of 1 per cent for 39 years.

We loaned Mexico \$540,000 at $\frac{3}{4}$ of 1 per cent for 60 years.

To African members of the Commonwealth we loaned \$3,500,000 at 6 per cent for 30 years, and \$1,600,000 without interest for 60 years.

Those are the official figures of the Department of External Affairs on the loans approved by the Canadian government.

And here is the Canadian parliament discussing whether or not personal income tax should be increased. The right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) said in the course of his explanations to the house this morning: "We will find another way of making up for the funds we are losing." We shall surely find another way to raise the money which we lost by the vote taken on Monday night.

• (2:50 p.m.)

The Prime Minister promises, however, that Bill No. C-193 has been definitely set aside, and that it will never come again before the house. However, plans are being made to move another bill in an effort to recuperate the sums of money which the department will lose an account of Monday's vote.

Last night I asked the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Chrétien): When shall we start paying back the Canadian people the amounts of money collected by the government since January 1 last?" It is not known. However, one thing remains: since the defeat of Bill No. C-193, all the amounts which were paid to the government have been collected illegally.