

*Suggested Interest-free Loans*

I know what I am speaking of in this field, because I have now been secretary of a municipality for some 25 years. Every year I have had to prepare a budget, with the help of the mayor and the aldermen, we must take into account the public debt we have contracted and must honour.

I am in a position to tell you, Mr. Speaker, that what our taxpayers find most annoying is precisely the interest on the public debt.

Fortunately, in the case of many municipalities, that public debt is owed mostly to taxpayers, who were willing to buy bonds or debentures with the money earned by the sweat of their brow, and who are certainly entitled to the interest.

What we condemn through this motion, is precisely what the Liberal government of 1935 condemned through the right hon. Mackenzie King, the Prime Minister at the time, when he stated in Saskatoon on September 23 1935:

When governments do not control their money and credit, it matters little who makes the laws, those governments are bound to depend on those who control that money, that credit, and it is pointless to speak of democracy.

I feel that the objectivity and the sincerity of all the members of the Ralliement créditiste will be recognized, when we suggest that a stop be put to those disorderly loans which not only overburden the government, but also discourage those who contribute to the financing of public affairs.

A few moments ago I heard the previous speaker complain bitterly about the so-called achievements of Alberta. Since I became member of Parliament, however, I have realized that if anyone attacks the present financial system and tries, in the name of democracy, to take away from the banks the right of Parliament to control the credit of the nation—credit which is the result of the work of all—the two old traditional parties close ranks in a common front against it. That is a sign of the times, an indication that we are on the right track and that we are really working to ensure for all Canadians the democracy which everybody is talking about.

Some say democracy means freedom. We, Créditistes, go further than that. We say that democracy truly observed is the assurance not only of freedom but of security. We work desperately hard at it, in order to give each and every one the opportunity of being himself in a truly democratic country where it is good to live.

[Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse).]

I am surprised to hear the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson) say that we must tighten our belts. The Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) asks us to show restraint although I have noticed everywhere in Canada the presence of considerable wealth and the possibility of production, through the work of those who want to work. We could increase production if the activities of the young and not so young people were not stifled by the provision of that meagre allowance called social welfare. Those people are well disposed, they still have plenty of pluck, they wish to cooperate to the development of Canada.

I recently had the opportunity to travel overseas. I did not go there to wander about, but to watch what was going on. Today, I am in a position to convey my impressions to the House. We have nothing to envy anyone. In Canada, we can better develop our natural resources in all areas, provided that we subdue those who make their living by controlling our credit, those who hold the key to our security and who decide whether the federal government will increase such and such a service, undertake this or that project and authorize such and such a development in such and such an area.

● (9:20 p.m.)

This afternoon, I heard the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Marchand), together with the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Pepin), request the introduction of a bill allowing parliament to help the province of Nova Scotia.

Right now I say that I shall support that bill, for after all, it is good and commendable since it purports precisely to show that there are still potentialities for new developments in Nova Scotia. However, I could detect a smile on the minister's face which seemed to tell the hon. members of the official opposition: Well, I pulled a fast one on you! I am introducing legislation that will benefit even a province which is dead set against us.

I think that in Canada, there is no place for political partisanship when it comes to spending public funds and using the possible credit of Canadians. We should instead try together to create everywhere in Canada an atmosphere of confidence and security. We should stop thinking that there is a rich Canada in the west and a poor Canada in the east. It is not good enough, when we live on the same continent and in the same country, that certain things are blamed on us, sometimes very bitterly.