

Let me give you one more example: the construction of the Champlain bridge in Montreal, which is a public utility, cost \$54 million. The debt still amounts to \$52 million, plus \$24 million in accrued interests. After using it for 15 years, we still have to pay 25 cents toll and moreover, this bridge still costs \$54 million. We, smarties, now owe \$76 million on this bridge, because of this government's policies. This is the kind of administration which kills initiative and drive in this country. As for the Jacques-Cartier bridge, it has been going on for even longer. It is even funnier. It cost \$24 million to build in 1930. After paying \$20 million in interest since 1930, which is 47 years ago, we still owe \$21 million on it.

And then we are told that inflation comes from overseas, that foreign countries export their inflation to Canada. We are creating it ourselves through the present policies of the government. They create inflation. And because of this, people do not have the purchasing power which is necessary to buy goods and services. We are forced to curtail the payroll or employment ceases because we cannot afford to go on, we then have the jobless. And because of these jobless people, we or the government put forward a new piece of legislation to fight unemployment and say that we have solved the problem, putting the blame, in a spirit of confrontation, on the provinces, and particularly on the province of Quebec, for their inability to create jobs. And this is what is happening, at the moment we have 1.4 million unemployed. And then we tell job hunters to make at least three contracts a week. That is no joke! How much does this amount to? Three millions; four by three make twelve. That makes 4,200,000 people a week in search of a job while industries keep on closing their doors.

An hon. Member: That is a lot of gas!

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): Right, and the price of gas is rising too. So they introduce unemployment insurance legislation forcing people back on the labour market to find some of those 4,200,000 jobs which do even exist; if they get no unemployment insurance benefits, it is obvious that they will have to go on welfare. Then the government will wash its hands of it, saying that it depends on the provinces, especially in Quebec which metes out social welfare, so it depends on them. We have no unemployed, just people on welfare. For the government, that is the solution to the problem.

An hon. Member: The parade of the Holy Innocents!

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): Exactly! We saw the parade of Holy Innocents in the riding of Témiscamingue. It was not the Holy Innocents but the seven innocents: seven ministers, six Liberal members from Quebec, with their secretaries—what a farce!—going from one village to the other trying to convince the people that all their problems had been solved. And, as the Minister for Regional Economic Expansion said: If you don't vote for us on the 24th, you can forget about your grants. Now that is how bright the government is; and a minister who claims to be competent, who claims he wants to solve the problems; and members such as the hon. member for Beauce (Mr. Caron), a fellow who has never risen in the

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House to say anything, except perhaps to chase the flies around and who, in the riding of Témiscamingue, tried to tell the people and the farmers that their problems would be solved if they voted Liberal, when in his own riding the farmers' quotas were reduced last year and that, when the Grits are in power. The same goes for the hon. member for Compton (Mr. Tessier); and the hon. member for Frontenac (Mr. Corriveau); we saw them going up and down sidewalks one after the other, greeting everyone. Why did they, who were in power, not solve the problem for the people in their riding? No, they prefer to resort to economic blackmail and discriminatory language against a segment of the population. That is the attitude of this government. We suggest that such an attitude goes against national unity; people are getting fed up with those tactics, fed up seeing the government playing small politics. I call that backyard politics where people try to exert pressure and tell constituents: Well, if you help us, we'll help you. The money that the Department of Regional Economic Expansion, the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce distribute or set aside for any project across the country, not only in Témiscamingue but across Quebec, that is not Liberal money, it is money which the government first took out of people's pockets, and I do not accept that a minister or a government should blackmail a riding by saying: If you do not vote for us, you are not going to get grants. A funny thing in Témiscamingue, most people who pay taxes are Social Crediters because during the last election they still had a Social Credit member of parliament; people will continue to pay taxes after May 24th and most of them are still Social Crediters. That money is no more Social Credit money than it is Liberal money, it is Canadian money that we, the taxpayers, invest in a government, and we ask the government to meet our needs. Ridings like Témiscamingue, as most Quebec ridings, need investments in small business, not in multinationals, not in imports. For example, imports have destroyed Canada's footwear industry. And they say we have people unemployed. A whole gang of people used to work in the footwear industry; because of imports, those industries had to close down, and they say we have unemployed people. Those people no longer have jobs. They have destroyed or are about to kill the rest of the textile industry in the province of Quebec because they allow massive imports of foreign products. They say: Well, yes, but the international market—that's right, let us cater to the international market and never mind starving Canadians, that is the government position. What our party favours is to help small business, to help people. I did not resort to economic blackmail during the last election campaign. I asked some individuals: What can you do in your area, in your village, in your parish to help create employment? A lot of projects. During the last campaign we found 12 projects, a tannery, for instance. Earlier in a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Lessard) I mentioned a silica mine at Saint-Bruno-de-Guigues, a furniture factory, other industries related to hunting, fishing and tourism. Twelve such projects have been created where people are interested in employee participation in the business, not as slaves, but as