

ter's position? He said: I promise you I shall faithfully voice your grievances and just claims within the Cabinet.

Mr. Speaker, this will not prevent the prices consumers have to pay for milk to increase either tomorrow or the day after. This will bring hardly anything more to dairy producers, and some people will once more take advantage of the situation.

I say that the government must do more than keep an eye on rising prices. I have with me a report on the prices of dairy products which was tabled by the Food Prices Review Board on March 20, 1974. What happened to this report? It was placed on shelves to collect dust.

We are told to increase production. All of us have received, in both official languages, a report from the Department of Labour, dated October 1, which provides statistics on strikes and lock-outs for the sole month of July 1974. How does it read? If it is thought production should be increased, let us encourage workers to work and follow the same logic as the Minister of Agriculture. In order to do this, we will have to pay them reasonable wages. Why do we have strikes and lock-outs now? Because workers, who have no other choice, demand that their wages be adjusted to the cost of living and break their collective agreement. There are conflicts in my riding, in the Princeville slaughter house, for example; there was a lock-out because employees wanted a cost of living adjustment. In some other place, there were also problems of cost of living adjustment.

There have been such events in Montreal too, much to the prejudice of the common good. Elderly persons had to walk, and the common good has been completely overlooked. And why is this? Because workers demanded that their wages be adjusted to the cost of living.

Some people would put the blame on the workers, others on the government of Quebec. However, Mr. Speaker, the citizens of Montreal and the area have been through this situation, because everyone wants a higher salary to "run after" prices which "run" faster than income, like a dog after his tail. Absolutely nothing comes out of it. It is completely useless.

The Minister of Agriculture spoke of the eggs. Did he have them destroyed, did he call for the destruction of these eggs? Is it because of a glut of eggs on the market or because these eggs were not up to market prices?

They were destroyed, rather than provide a compensated discount to encourage the consumption of this product. This destruction is truly a national shame, similar to such other wartime actions, like throwing butter in the St. Lawrence, and other foods.

Mr. Speaker, I come back to the subject of production. An October 1 release from the Department of Labour says, and I quote:

In July 1974, there were 236 work stoppages affecting 105,213 workers. In June, there was a total of 227 work stoppages involving 218,367 workers and last July, 137 work stoppages concerning 74,509 workers.

In July this year, 39 work stoppages involved 500 workers or more, compared with 31 in June.

Of those 39 work stoppages, 25 occurred in manufacturings—

—as in Victoriaville, where the main industries are furniture and textile manufacturing, two prosperous industries whose high quality products are in demand but where

*The Address—Mr. Fortin*

wages are not so good compared with the provincial average.

Mr. Speaker, the workers cannot make ends meet and keep up with the cost of living. What is being done? Absolutely nothing except talks about the need to deal with the causes and mitigate its effects.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that the field of labour in Canada will be studied during this session thanks to the initiative of the Minister of Labour (Mr. Munro). We should find new ways of negotiating, new ways to see that collective agreements are respected and to ensure more justice and a greater share for the working force in a concern's profits. We should allow labour to participate in the planning and growth of businesses.

Mr. Speaker, we must show imagination if we want to increase our production, if there is really a lack of production on our part. When it is realized that there are 39 work stoppages involving more than 500 workers, they themselves involving more than another 500 workers, that means, Mr. Speaker, that we are facing an extremely serious situation.

In the Speech from the Throne, it is mentioned that the social fabric of some countries is crumbling because of pressure on the part of the workers. Mr. Speaker, Canada's social structure may not be crumbling but its citizens are bending under the burden of the increasing cost of living.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to discuss another extremely important point. But first I would like to summarize my comments on the Speech from the Throne, as I do not want to prolong our work uselessly. It is important to say what must be said and then put an end to it. I think that the problem I have raised is extremely important and I hope that the Minister of Agriculture will stop playing the game of chicken, egg and rooster and that he will really take the situation in hand, tell the truth in this House, clarify his position and give us an intelligent production policy.

I hope the government will realize that production will not be promoted by discouraging workers. I hope the government will realize also that sound consumption and sound distribution of riches cannot be ensured by taxing and overtaxing small taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, the hazy Social Credit philosophy, as our colleagues opposite would say, reveals itself today as a philosophy that can really meet the needs of our modern society, since Social Credit is essentially a policy for a just distribution of riches to all consumers, without endangering private enterprise in any way. We are the happy medium of a modern solution and I sincerely hope that during the next sittings, we will have the opportunity of convincing more and more our fellow citizens as regards such positive solutions.

Before resuming my seat, I should like to point out to the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Drury) something that is related to the constituencies of Lotbinière, Richelieu, Trois-Rivières—Métropolitain, Portneuf, Champlain, Kamouraska and all constituencies along the St. Lawrence river whether it be the left or the right bank, to the north or to the south. We must all face the same problem, namely erosion on the banks of the St. Lawrence. Under