

solve the problems, but I do not see them in the same light. I am convinced that the very great majority of the Cr ditiste members, if not all of them—I would have to ask the leader to tell me that—want to help the Canadians.

I am convinced that the Ralliement cr ditiste wants to help the Canadians and their constituents. I do not question their sincerity. They have worked. Moreover, they have been useful, generally speaking, since they have stimulated us. Their theory, of course, will become a historical fact, as it happened with "Poujadisme" in France. People will say that a certain philosophy existed.

And that will be all. It will be forgotten. There will be something left of their action, and far from me the idea of attacking them mercilessly, to blame them for everything they did. On the contrary. However, I believe that when the government is attacked as it is now, this is somewhat unfair for the democratic system in which we live.

We have established special programs and their scope will be extended. We will try to make a more general attack against the so-called regional disparities. Of course, this is difficult, because there is only a certain amount of money at our disposal, and we must try to satisfy the main needs.

It is not possible, at the same time, during the same year, to buy a car, to go to Europe, to get one's wife a new fur coat, etc. This is not possible. The same principle applies on the national scale.

Those who believe that the Cr ditiste doctrine can solve the problems should go to India at the present time and they should try just by using the machine to print money, to solve all the problems which they have in that country.

Then, they will realize their arguments do not hold water. Anyway, we have tried to correct the discrepancies by equalizing taxes and by granting tax rebates to the provinces.

At present, all levels of government in Canada are paying \$7,300 million in social benefits to help the poor.

Of course, it is not an extravagant amount. What are \$7 billion? It all depends on the number of people sharing it. All the same, it is 10.6 per cent of the general gross income of Canada. It may not be enough and may not solve all the problems, yet, it is a help in our fight against poverty.

We shall now have to do our best to solve the problem of regional disparities. And we do intend to do so. There has been much talk

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about guaranteed annual income. This is not an idea to be discarded out of hand. Besides, we are now, in the government, in the process of revising the whole system of social welfare.

What will be the outcome? I do not know but our efforts should be coordinated. We shall have to find a simpler formula, so as to help those who are the most deprived.

Yet, we must manage to keep Canadian production growing and to allow our industrial technology to compete with its foreign counterpart because whatever may be said or done, if we do not produce globally the necessary wealth, we shall be unable to distribute it.

Once it is there, there will be another problem, that of distributing it equitably between all the groups of society. We have already tried to do that. Not that we boast in the least of having found the answer but we do believe that we have been doing our best, often in spite of the opposition and sometimes also with the co-operation of a fraction of it.

That is all I wanted to say this afternoon, about the Social Credit motion. Practically speaking, this motion aims at telling Canadians that we still have problems in Canada. Unfortunately we know it only too well; we know that some of our people are hungry. That is true. We know that many people are poor. We are eager to fight poverty but as a human institution, we are, unfortunately, no match for angels.

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, it is a pity the hon. member for T miscamingue (Mr. Caouette), who brought in the motion, has left the house—temporarily, I hope—because it goes without saying that we would want to hear the comments from both sides, and especially those on the proposals he did not put forth this afternoon.

On studying the motion before the house, where we are told that the government has failed to put forth adequate measures to give benefits to Canadians, I gathered that what was meant was an adequate policy on the distribution of goods and services which would enable every Canadian citizen to share equitably in Canadian abundance.

This is a very free translation of the English version which I have in front of me. I should have thought that the member for T miscamingue would have told us what adequate measure he would like the government to adopt. I was hoping that we would be given an inkling of what these solutions