

The Budget—Mr. Caouette

—Social Credit—

—is sheer madness.

Sheer madness! And he goes on:

In other words, our country is overflowing with raw materials—

Everybody knows that, including the minister.

—and energy resources, and our agricultural potential is tremendous. All those riches serve to guarantee the value of this new money.

On that point, the minister is entirely mistaken as always. It is not at all what the Ralliement Cr ditiste said. They advocate the establishment of a sound monetary system, not based on potential, but on production.

And the minister added: What would we do with the unsold uranium? What would we do with the unsold farm products? With the wheat we have not sold? What would we do with all our unsold products?

Mr. Speaker, the first thing to do with all the unsold production should be to feed the Canadian people. Let us consider that first of all, instead of sales abroad. Of course, we have a foreign customers to supply but when we ask for an increase in income, the minister says: Money would lose its value.

Money would lose its value if we took it in the pockets of the people to redistribute it, to increase the price of goods. If wages and prices of materials are increased, surely, that would increase prices twofold, threefold, fourfold or fivefold, as is the case under the present system. The minister is aware that it is not Social Credit that raises the cost of living now, but the monkey system which he defends so ably, so boldly and so arrogantly when he talks to businessmen, professionals and social clubs.

Somebody should bring water to the minister, he needs it, it is time.

Mr. Speaker, the minister said:

Free credit, whatever its objective, will always bring about destruction of property.

We are now wiping out property. Social Credit is not doing it, it is the present system. The minister is aware of it. If we want to build a federal public building, a highway, a school, a hospital, under the present system, on account of the interest rates, we have to pay for three hospitals to have one: one for us and two for the financing charges. How far will the minister go in this direction? We are living in a money debt system.

I previously quoted as an example the case of the Jacques-Cartier bridge, in Montreal,

and I shall quote it again. The original cost of this bridge was \$18 million. Well, so far we have paid \$20 million in interests only, and we still owe \$14 million. The Secretary of State said to me once: yes, but the hon. member does not take into account the fact that, thanks to the Jacques Cartier bridge, goods have been carried from the south shore to the north shore. Everybody knows that, but if with the \$20 million paid as interest a second bridge had been built, the minister must admit that twice the same quantity of goods could have been carried and we would have had two bridges instead of only one. We have already paid for this bridge twice and we still owe enough for a third one. Yet, the minister thinks that there is logic in that, that this way of doing things is intelligent.

I wish to come back to this point: the Ralliement cr ditiste has never suggested that credit be printed without consideration. I challenge the minister to find such words in any of my speeches. But I did say that the monetary system should be balanced according to what the people are able to produce. There was no question of raising prices and thereby creating more inflation. Let the minister tell us, on the occasion of a forthcoming speech, that to create new credit through the Bank of Canada will in no way bring about an increase in the price of goods. Distributed as a national dividend based on production among all Canadian citizens, it will increase their purchasing power without adding to prices. Indeed, when do the prices increase? The minister should tell us one of these days.

We can increase the Canadian consumers' purchasing power without creating inflation by always keeping in mind the statistics on Canadian production and increasing the purchasing power independently from the wages earned. It is in such a way that we will succeed in fighting inflation, not with silly plans like those outlined in this house by the minister when he says that the Cr ditiste doctrine is nonsense. It is easy to say that the Cr ditistes are crackpots, that they are not educated. In the field of economics, however, I think that within the present framework of the financial system providing for the administration of a country with borrowed money created entirely by a few individuals, the minister is proving that he is not too well informed either. He is not really an economist of scarcity amidst wealth. There are in Canada such economists who inform governments, advise the Prime Minister and the provinces, and who are lost in a fog. Yes.