

Increased Cost of Living

concern for raising the general level of productivity which is the source of more new wealth for every one of our citizens.

If we are to overcome the forces in our society that lead to maldistribution we have to face some serious problems. I agree with the hon. member for St. John's West that we must approach them in a sophisticated way, but the sophisticated way is not to pretend that to proceed with the same sort of policies that have been used in the past, even in the last two or three years, is the way to solve the problems of the modern age.

We have to face the fact that the most important and significant factor in modern industrial society is the rise of vast corporate enterprises which can largely insulate themselves from the rest of the market. They are, for instance, not to be touched at all by any change in the interest rates because those corporations are now among those who contribute that 70 per cent of all capital investment which comes from undistributed profits.

We have to deal with those corporations. We have to deal also with the financial errors or incompetence, or both, which have led to three crashes in recent months which I think, whether the hon. member for Medicine Hat does or not, is a very serious and dangerous situation in Canada.

We have to deal with those people. We have to deal with those who connive to keep prices high, to take every opportunity to off-set any increases in monetary income that the workers may gain by increases in prices. This, of course, is the means by which the share of labour has been kept static for the last 15 or 20 years.

But more important still, Mr. Speaker, we have to decide what sort of values we want to obtain in our society. I suggest to you, sir, that the time has gone when we can no longer rely on the savage values first of all suggested by Thomas Hobbes in his "Leviathan", with his concept of a human society of every man against every other man. This concept was further refined by Adam Smith into a philosophy that each seeking his own selfish ends would contribute to the general welfare.

It is true enough that each seeking his own selfish ends did produce the present great economic organization that we have today. It did produce the enormous funds of capital by which the modern industrial corporation was built. But now we are in another era, and we have to find some way to make these great corporations, and the delicate and precariously balanced productive

machine of which they are the components, evolve and without wrecking that machine we have to make it work in the interest of all the people of Canada.

I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that it is not good enough for government supporters to point to the very minor advances that have been made by the faltering Liberal government as proof of significant advance in the solution of this problem. We have had before us in recent days an example of the way in which a large corporation can thumb its nose at the welfare of the Canadian people, can twist the arm of the government, can make the government abjectly change its mind and reverse its policy without any consideration whatever for the responsibility that that company had to supply cheap energy to Canada before exporting it to the United States.

If the government thinks, and its supporters think that they have shown any sign whatever of dealing with this modern age for which, as the hon. member for St. John's West has suggested we require some sophisticated solutions, then I suggest they do a little more thinking. Our second century, Mr. Speaker, must surely be devoted to making sure that the affluent society which is now within our reach will be affluent for all of us, and not a hollow ring of derision in the ears of some 20 per cent to 25 per cent of our population. You cannot escape that 20 per cent or 25 per cent just because you are well fed, well housed and have a good income. I suggest every member of the house should go down to the slum districts of all our large cities and come back properly humbled, realizing how ineffective this parliament and government have been in solving the great problem of distribution which is the chief problem of the modern age.

[*Translation*]

Hon. René Tremblay (Matapédia-Matane): Mr. Speaker, the 22nd of November is a date which has become famous, not only in the history of the United States, but in the whole world. This date reminds us of the dramatic death of President Kennedy, who was suddenly removed from one of the most important positions in the world and mourned not only by his country, which has profited from his services, but by people of the whole world, who were accustomed to seeing him as the defender of their interests and possessions.