

Employment Incentive Programs

CIP company alone was producing at Temiscaming. Now a business is allowed to close on the ground that it will not be able to resume its operations before two or three years. The minister says: The market might be better then. Today there is no market, but the minister or the government is prepared to grant millions of dollars to build new industries.

Thus unemployment insurance benefits would be paid from the funds of the government which come from taxpayers; those funds would be used to pay unemployment insurance benefits to the citizens of those two towns. Such is the inconsistency or incompetence of a government or of ministers who do not go to the root of the problem.

I mention those two localities, but let us take the case of Domtar, in Trois-Rivières, where 800, 900 or perhaps even more workers were laid off because of poor market conditions.

This afternoon, my colleague for Bellechasse (Mr. Lambert) put a question to the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson). There is a surplus of eggs in Canada. My colleague asked the minister why we import eggs from other countries. The minister replied that we do because eggs are less expensive elsewhere. My colleague figured out that imported eggs cost us \$1.20 a dozen, while they only bring in 20 cents a dozen to the producers. The ministers lie to us shamelessly in every field of production.

In 1971, Canada produced some \$90 billion in goods and services. That is not peanuts. Still, the total Canadian income amounted to \$67 billion. Mr. Speaker, it is not necessary to be a wizard at figures to understand that \$67 billion cannot buy a production of \$90 billion. There is therefore \$23 billion worth of production which we are unable to purchase, because of a lack of purchasing power. The people are without purchasing power.

We hear the Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) tell us: "To give new impetus to the economy, we must spend more." The hon. member for Duvernay (Mr. Kierans) stated yesterday, I believe: "Canadians must spend more, if we want our economy to regain some strength and if we are to recover control of it instead of allowing it to be dominated by foreign interests".

Mr. Speaker, I think that we must set up a program which would enable the Canadian people to finance their own production and keep full control over their economy. However, we must take the necessary means. It is not by begging and pestering the United States for loans to develop our country or to create new industries that we will succeed, but by using our own resources. In order to produce in Canada we do not use American labour but Canadian labour and Canadian brains. This is what we use for our production. But, when comes the time to control the nation's credit, we are faced with inefficient people who say: We must take the international market into account. The needs of the Canadian people are never taken into account. This is why we always say: Let us use our financial institution called the Bank of Canada. One million or 578 million written with Canadian ink and a Canadian pen on the desk of Louis Rasminsky, Governor of the Bank of Canada, are figures based on our own wealth, on our own production, these figures are just as good as those we are asking for in New York, Chicago, Washington or San Francisco. What is the difference

[Mr. Caouette.]

between credits of five, six or seven million issued in Canada, based on Canada's wealth or similar credits issued in the United States based on the same wealth, credits on which we have to pay interest? Why not use the services of the Bank of Canada where we could borrow at a rate of interest that would be no higher than the operating costs of the Bank? That is a solution. But no, the ministers—there is not even one in the House now—when we talk of these matters, say that they are most busy trying to find new jobs.

• (1600)

That is how serious they are. One minister is present. I apologize for my mistake. How many are they now? Thirty-six?

An hon. Member: Twenty-nine.

Mr. Caouette: Twenty-nine. That is too many given the results that we see. Three ministers would be enough.

Mr. Speaker, the same problem existed ten years ago, when the Progressive Conservatives were in power. They were doing what the Liberals are doing now. They went on their knees in pilgrimage to New York City, borrowing from the Americans, begging for permission to develop this country, Canada. However, the problem is still not one of production or creation of productive jobs; this is a matter of giving Canadians consumers a purchasing power enabling them to get available products. And when products are being sold, the industries will not need subsidies to maintain themselves because they will profitably sell their products and be able to administer themselves.

All government grants are now monopolized by the big industries, by corporations, as the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands (Mr. Douglas) said with reason a few moments ago. We voted against the government which put forward a bill to help industries. It consisted in establishing a program of \$80 million to offset the American surtax which was abolished about two months after its implementation and the government went on allocating the remaining of these 80 million even after the surtax had been repealed. They continued to subsidize corporations and the most important which received the \$80 million are subsidiaries of American corporations.

This does not mean that we should say to the Americans: Yankee, go home. No, Mr. Speaker, this is not what we want to say. We want to regain control over our economy instead of thinking only of creating productive employment. If we cannot sell out products we have to organize part of consumption. Let us organize Canadians to enable them to spend more, not to the benefit of finance companies but through credits which would be theirs.

This is why we say that the difference between the \$90 billion worth of production and the \$67 billion of revenues, i.e., \$23 billion, should be created and distributed to the people—not to companies—who will go and buy companies which will compete to give us better services, and which will thus create jobs to sell their production. It would be a production ordered, organized and managed not by the government, but by consumers, who are masters in a country like ours.