

We have heard several proposals which have been honestly suggested to deal with the problems which worry Canadians. They get impatient and ask for increasingly faster action to improve the unfortunate situation which they are now facing.

The population is worried about the hesitation and false steps of the government. The right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) is going to succeed in standardizing unsatisfaction throughout Canada. Since last fall we witnessed the biggest fraud of modern times as far as our energy supplies are concerned, particularly in the oil area. Like other governments depending on oil trusts, the Canadian government tried to create a climate of panic in order to get higher oil product prices readily accepted. He knows perfectly well that these increases in oil prices would considerably add to the price rise of all consumer goods but he knew too that all increases in consumer product costs and salaries also boost government revenues through higher indirect income and sales taxes. We just have to study the revenues of the three government levels to see that in the last ten years, their revenues have almost trebled. As a matter of fact, their total revenues jumped from \$12,491,000 in 1962 to \$39,179,000 in 1972. The rise in the price index is not due only to industry or trade, but to a large extent to the craving of governments for money and the consumers are certainly the losers.

It is normal for any citizen to seek to increase his income and thus improve his standard of living but inflation erodes his purchasing power and quite often the individual becomes frustrated, loses all initiative or becomes impressed by the violence of his environment and loses all confidence in the capitalist system. For example, we have only to look at the figures still provided in this commercial letter I mentioned a while ago to realize that if we take the 1961 dollar as a basis, this dollar was worth only 97.1 cents in 1963 and only 68.2 cents in 1973. That is to say, Mr. Speaker, that the Canadian manual labourer, the small storekeeper, the small businessman, as well as the individual stuck with a fixed income as are our pensioners, for example, those who have retired or who must live on public welfare are penalized by this shrinking purchasing power. Even if they are occasionally granted an increase in salary or in pension, their lower purchasing power does away with what they hoped would improve their situation.

The same thing goes, Mr. Speaker, for the individual who has the opportunity or the advantage of saving money. Because of this increase in prices, and this reduction in the purchasing power, the receipt on whatever savings may have been accumulated are cancelled and it becomes futile to think of saving money for the days when such savings may be necessary.

Mr. Speaker, when we examine the pattern of our administrative system in the last decade, we soon realize that the capitalist system is sick and seriously so. In the belief that the capitalist system is superior to communism or any form of socialism, Social Crediters persist in offering economic and social measures to remedy the weaknesses of the system because weaknesses there are. The government has long since given up before the increasingly powerful monopolies which have too often dictated laws which give it even more power and ascendancy over

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the life of the citizens of our country. The government is not the people's servant any more, it is now at the service of the mighty and does not conceal it. Can the capitalist system ensure a sufficient production and distribution of consumer goods to guarantee all Canadians a standard of living high enough to provide for themselves and their families the goods which are necessary to meet their needs and live properly? The elements of an acceptable standard of living are essentially the following: a daily nutrition which is sufficient to replace the energy spent to live and to work, enough clothes to enable body cleanliness and to protect the individual against bad weather, a house which gives a healthy and hygienic shelter, sanitary facilities and medical care protecting the individual against illness and its consequences.

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Two others can be added to these vital needs: protection against theft or violence, against the loss of the possibility to work, against poverty coming from illness or old age and the means enabling each man, woman or child to develop his or her talents and skills to the maximum.

These are, Mr. Speaker, the main elements necessary in order to ensure Canadians a decent standard of living. I know of the immense natural resources we have in Canada, and I also know of the will and the abilities of Canadians to work and to produce goods and services in sufficient quantities to ensure everyone a decent standard of living. We do not understand why so many families and people face financial difficulties because the cost of living exceeds all expectations.

In order to calm the anger of some categories of people who felt deprived of their incomes or their assets, because of the lower purchasing power, the government agreed to raise old age pensions and family allowances. Up to now, however, they forgot to take action with the provinces in order to improve the condition of disabled and blind people we find in all our communities and who also, and maybe more than anybody else, suffer from the impact of inflation. This is why the government, together with the provinces, should have as a priority to establish a sufficiently high level of assistance to allow these persons, who are underprivileged, to enjoy an acceptable way of living.

Unfortunately, we see that for each increase in salary or welfare assistance, inflation carries away the hopes we had for a better standard of living for ourselves and our families. The wife receives more family allowances, but the husband has to pay more income taxes. There has also been an increase in family allowances for those on welfare, but their welfare cheque has been reduced accordingly by the province of Quebec, my province. The same has happened to the elderly who are living in senior citizens homes. One is proud to give something with the right hand, but takes it back with the left one. The left hand knows what the right hand has given, and takes back what has been given.

Mr. Speaker, as soon as possible during this session, the government should take the necessary steps to lower the age of entitlement to old age security pension. As a result of the various transfers brought about by technology in the field of employment, the individual who loses his job