

Suggested Interest-free Loans

The house realizes that this is the factor which has caused the Price and Incomes Commission to recommend the establishment of guidelines for salaries and wages at the federal-provincial conference of ministers of Finance and provincial treasurers which took place in Winnipeg recently.

These guidelines, which would correspond to the criteria on price controls adopted at the national conference on price stability held last february in Ottawa, were fully endorsed by the federal government. They were also approved by most of the provincial ministers present at the Winnipeg conference.

If those guidelines manage to hold costs down as they have done already with prices, the government could go ahead through a new policy aimed at a more rapid rate of growth, a higher rate of employment and a higher increase in the actual income of all Canadians.

Unemployment has been referred to. The very high rate of unemployment in Canada is a matter of concern. However, the opposition seems concerned with unemployment only when the rate reaches 5 or 6 per cent. But the government, I can say that, becomes involved right away as soon as there is one man out of work. We try by every means to give him a hand.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to say to conclude that, even though Créditistes may seem convinced, they are not quite convincing. Having heard the NDP members and the Conservatives decline to support their motion, I can say that the government will not support it either and it seems that the Créditistes are quite isolated.

Mr. Speaker, between you and me who does not understand?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. C.-A. Gauthier (Roberval): Mr. Speaker, I believe we have today a special day, called the opposition's day. We, of the Ralliement créditiste had to propose a motion and it seems to me that the motion which has been proposed by the member for Champlain (Mr. Matte) concerns the whole population.

The Liberal, Conservative and New Democratic members say they are not concerned by the motion. In fact only three of them have spoken up to now. They are afraid or are not authorized to speak about this matter. However this matter is nowadays a very important one.

[Mr. Côté (Longueuil).]

I was pleased when the hon. Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Côté) rose a while ago, because I thought: at last, here is someone who might try to disregard the high finance. However I did not recognize his usual style and at times I wondered whether his speeches are not written by the financiers themselves.

He has claimed that others have said that we would not convince them. Our aim is not to convince members. Indeed, I have always believed this saying: Tell me who pays you and I will tell you who you are. In my opinion, the three parties are well paid by big finance and it is strictly forbidden to speak against it these days. People suffer so much because their true representatives are not in the House.

We do criticize the government at times, but we do more than that, we make suggestions. For years we have been suggesting monetary reform, asking the government to try to find new credit through the Bank of Canada and to stop having private interests create public credit. That is the flaw in the system. We take over public property and put it back on the market through individuals, that is, chartered banks.

• (5:30 p.m.)

And I was not surprised to hear the Minister of National Revenue say that he was satisfied with our indebtedness. As far as he is concerned it is normal to get into debt. The more the people work, the more they have to get into debt. This is normal. But I say that it is abnormal. And if some argue differently, they are also abnormal.

I have never seen a man who works in earnest and receives an income, getting deeper into debt year after year if he has a sound accounting system. However, this is what we tolerate from the government. If at the end of the year the government has not received a sufficient income to pay its expenditures, it goes into debt.

Of course, in underdeveloped countries this is logical. But in a country such as Canada which shows surpluses every year—if we compare the gross national income to the national output—this is unconceivable. However, we note that Canada is not a poor country but a country which is robbed by high finance which we want to denounce.

After listening to some of the speeches made by members from other parties, I am more convinced than ever that it is impossible, even with a ton of water, to get a duck wet. According to an old saying, there is none so deaf as those who will not hear.