

*The Address—Mr. Racine*

1960; the cost of food, which stood then at 66.3 per cent, had climbed to 122.2 for the year 1960.

That means that the value of the dollar, taking these statistics into account, is almost half what it was when the allowances were put into effect; and we can conclude that the buying power of the Canadian family has decreased by that much, whereas it should be increased to stimulate the country's economy.

These statistics not only show but prove that an adjustment of the family allowances rate is necessary. The adjustment is all the more essential since the Conservatives came to power, because they brought with them unemployment as it exists today.

By overlooking family allowances, the government is condoning a lack of distributive justice and puts many Canadian families in an intolerable situation, depriving them of a buying power that, while improving their economic conditions, would contribute to give back to the country, in a large measure, that economic development it should have.

I am not surprised at the inaction of the government in that regard. The Tories have always proved, by their statements, that they were against the allowances, and the attitude of the present government proves again that the Conservatives have not changed their minds and still have a great disregard for the families that make up our country.

I should not like to repeat today the ungracious statements made by the leader and members of the Conservative party on this subject, but it is agreed that immediate action is imperative.

Speaking of the next general election—it is bound to take place—and, in that connection, we just have to refer to a Canadian Press report of January 3 last entitled: "1962 holds promises of a bright future—Mr. Diefenbaker". According to the Prime Minister, a year of promises, and he knows what he is talking about. This will be an election year and we, on this side of the house, are awaiting the election eagerly, not for our own satisfaction, but for the benefit of the Canadian people. We feel that the slogan "Follow John" will not bring to the Conservatives the same results as in 1958.

Farmers who form one of the most important parts of our population feel the same way as we do concerning the government's inertia. As a matter of fact, the January 17 issue of *Terre de Chez Nous* published an article entitled: The federal government's inertia exposed. The article states further on

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that the Canadian federation of dairy farmers has expressed, on behalf of Canadian dairy farmers, its regrets and disappointment in the face of the federal government's inertia.

Speaking on behalf of the 350,000 members of the federation, the president, Mr. Lutes, deplored the government's failure to take action on a brief which was submitted about two months ago and which urged the immediate payment of 14 cents a pound to subsidize the consumption of butter.

For his part, Mr. Pierre Cote considered the present butter consumption deplorable and pointed out that it was going down every month, while the surplus amounted to more than 200 million pounds.

As Mr. Cote says, it is obvious that this surplus is due to the high resale consumer price and unless the federal government takes the necessary means to improve the situation by paying a subsidy, there is no hope of solving the problem.

If the situation is so serious, it is because of the present government.

Here is what Mr. Paul Henri Lavoie writes in the December 6, 1961 issue of *Terre de Chez Nous*:

The change in government at Ottawa has only made matters worse since the views of those concerned, the producers, have practically always been systematically ignored. Such was the case, for instance, when the oft-repeated suggestion was made that a subsidy be paid for butter consumption. What was bound to happen did indeed happen. Faced with a situation which could soon become disastrous, after they ignored the producers' recommendations when it was time to make decisions, the government is now inclined to blame the producers and make them pay the full price for mistakes in which they had practically no part.

That issue of *Terre de Chez Nous* did not mince words in regard to the government. At the present time, the only place where butter consumption can be increased is on the domestic market and the only way to do that, is to pay consumer subsidies.

In fact, there can be no question of exporting our surpluses, except at a loss, since prices on world markets are lower than those on the Canadian market. Then, why not have Canadian families benefit by such a subsidy instead of the importing countries?

The unemployment situation is still a source of worry in Canada, notwithstanding the Prime Minister's formal promise that, if he were elected, no one would have to suffer from unemployment.