

would be nothing to worry about, even during the months of March, April and May.

On the other hand, I know that the minister of Agriculture has no jurisdiction on transport. He has to rely on the minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Commission who, in turn, has no concern with the needs of the Feed Grain Board. That is why I propose, once again tonight, as I already did, that, as a means to achieve this objective, the minister of Agriculture responsible for supplying Eastern Canada with feed grain should have additional authority which should allow him to mobilize the necessary transportation means, when required to do so by an emergency situation, so that we should not be caught unaware and that farm producers of Eastern Canada and British Columbia should not be deprived of the feed grain they need to maintain production.

I believe that this kind of action would be a great step forward in the right direction, for the producers of Eastern Canada rely on the Feed Grain Board for adequate supplies, as grain producers rely on the Canadian Wheat Board for storing and selling their wheat at a good price.

The agricultural industry of Quebec plays a great part in the economy of this country, directly or indirectly.

Thousands of people rely on production, transformation or distribution of different products to live.

It is therefore a very important industry in the economy of our country, an industry that is of great consequence, and we, members of the Canadian Parliament, must take the means available to us to ensure its survival, in order to help prevent the unemployment rate from rising—it is already high enough—without forcing the farm producers who still have guts left to retire from business and live on social welfare.

I think, Madam Speaker, it is important for us to take the steps to ensure farm producers, those who still have enough courage to persevere in that essential industry, all that is necessary so they can count on the public power to restore order where there is disorder, in order that they have sufficient revenues to live reasonably. They do not want to become millionnaires, but they want to have a reasonable income which will allow them to live decently, to pay their debts, to support their families, to have their wives and children live in normal conditions, in a country where it is possible even for farmers to enjoy a good standard of living.

However, I acknowledge the right of the longshoremen to strike, but I think that at some point in a dispute, the right to strike must be weighed against the public interest, and in my opinion we have reached that turning point. In one year, twelve strikes have affected farm producers throughout Canada. So I think that we must have reached that turning point where the government must intervene and bring the matter under control.

If cattle is being slaughtered prematurely for lack of feed grain, producers will suffer a loss, consumers will not get a good-quality product and perhaps in a few months food supply problems might develop, with the result that prices will go up. Quality will go down and prices will go up. That is not the way we are going to fight inflation.

I have said before in the House and I express again tonight the opinion, about which I feel very strongly, that

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the cost of living adjustment of wages does not solve anything, prices keep on rising, there is further recourse to strikes for higher wages and we cannot escape the vicious circle. Another solution will have to be found.

Let us now consider seriously the number of strikes that occurred in Canada over the last year. That is an indication that the indexing formula did not solve much.

I notice that the discussion of problems we are experiencing seem to strike a member on the government side as funny. My God, if the Canadian people could see us behave that flightily, they would know why there are so many problems in Canada!

Mr. Lapointe: On a point of order, Madam Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): The hon. member for Charlevoix is rising on a point of order.

Mr. Lapointe: The hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Lambert) appeared to be pointing at me when he said that we tended to take the debate lightly. Madam Speaker, I strongly protest against that accusation, because we are here for no other reasons than to discuss this important matter—

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): Order. Again this is not a point of order but a point for debate.

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Madam Speaker, I knew it was not a point of order. There was no sense in it being a point of order.

I suggest another way of giving more justice to workers. Parliament should adopt immediately a law to guarantee a minimum income for all workers. Such a formula would not be included in salaries and would not contribute to the price increase of things consumers must buy to meet their needs.

We live under a capitalist economy which is in a sorry plight and faulty in many respects. Therefore it is up to Parliament to reform it before it is too late.

That capitalist economic system will be reformed by order-loving men—that won't happen by itself—or it will be destroyed by others. Such a wave of strikes and demonstrations throughout this country should show us clearly that we must abandon beaten tracks, old methods, redress the wrongs so as to put an end to the exploitation of man by man, because that is also one of the causes for the strikes that keep on increasing.

We live in a society headed by a Parliament, by a government whose responsibility consist in providing for the common weal through respect for the legal rights of everyone.

Time has come for the authority to assert itself so as to replace disorder by order. All reasonable people have an eager desire for governments aware of their responsibilities and able to replace chaos by harmony—and most people still feel that way. One wants the rights of labour capital to be safeguarded, one recognizes the necessity for that. One recognizes also that the rights of money capital should be respected but one wishes both to work together in the best interests of this country. That is where the conflict lies, between those two forms of capital.