

*Anti-Inflation Act*

Not so long ago, an hon. member was scoffing at this Douglas proposal. He said that it was misunderstood by everyone. But the discount formula on milk retail prices was understood and implemented in 1972. It gave results. If it did not take up too much of the House's time, I would quote figures that show that in each province, it was profitable for Canadian families which received considerable amounts. It was related to milk consumption. If a family consumed five quarts a day, it got five times the discount and if it bought only two, it had twice the discount. Then, it was a regulator. This regulator could also apply to all other Canadian products. This last measure would promote the consumption of Canadian products and therefore increase job opportunities in Canada.

Obviously, if we consume more Canadian products, warehouses will become empty, industrialists will be interested in producing more and they will hire workers. Automatically, this measure would fight inflation and also create more jobs.

In the past, Madam Speaker, when Social Crediters proposed this economic and financial philosophy of Major Douglas, the governments rejected it under the pretext that it would create inflation and unemployment, but this is no longer justified.

Now, we do not have a Social Credit government, but we have a debt-credit system, inflation and unemployment. So, we have inflation and unemployment but we do not have Social Credit. Inflation is not due to the Social Credit and neither is unemployment.

I hope that once and for all those who were not aware of it will find out that it has nothing to do with the matter. The system is deficient and obsolete, thus giving rise to inflation and unemployment. We must therefore make some changes.

Some people, because of their ignorance or their thoughtlessness candidly say that the Douglas system is a money printing press. We have often heard that, it is an old story. However, they forget that the present system is a tool to pile up debts and levy taxes. Why should we not restrict debts and taxes if we want to freeze something? Let us also freeze what hurts the Canadian taxpayers.

Therefore, a discount at the retail level would substitute cash purchases to purchases on instalments. Sales are made under pressure when the buyer is almost compelled to buy. This is the one of the evils we are now subjected to and I would like the government to take steps to control that evil which erodes the purchasing power of the people even before they earn a salary.

Pressure sales consist in selling people anything from automobiles to washing machines in an installment credit system. That means that the people as such do not have enough purchasing power to buy those goods on an installment credit basis. They are therefore lead, in a purely logically and inexorable way, to mortgage not only their belongings but also their future earning power. And it is just a matter of time until they can no longer fulfill their commitments, which means another economic collapse of our nation.

This is a matter of serious concern. People are lead through all sorts of means to run into debts to provide for current necessities. Finally, Madam Speaker, a bill should be tabled as soon as possible, a bill which would provide

for a guaranteed minimum income to increase the purchasing power of lower income groups and to enable them to take advantage of the huge wealth of our country. I think such a legislation should be introduced as soon as possible to provide increased security for families. If we increase the buying power of people who really need it, they will feel more secure, and this would in my opinion help the Canadian economy get back on its feet.

Third, I consider the government would also be wise to find a new way of financing the public sector which has become a huge burden for Canadian taxpayers. Just look at the considerable increase in our national debt, in the debts of provinces and municipalities, and you will realize that it is a system which no longer meets today's needs and becomes more and more of a burden for taxpayers. Why should we have a nation of debenture holders and slaves rather than a nation of shareholders?

I never could understand that. I have always been astonished that because we work a lot, we sink into debt. It seems to me that in my family when we worked together we used to prosper, we seemed to get out of debt. But because we live together in our society, the more we work the deeper we get into debt! This is beyond my understanding.

We saw that the Plumptre Commission did not work. We got a lot of reports but none with constructive solutions. True, the board had no powers. Its role was to find out, to scrutinize, to visit retail outlets to see whether prices or profits were too high. It was only empowered to review. I said a number of times in this House that the board would have played a much larger part if it had had certain powers. Laws get into our books but are not enforced. If the board had had some teeth built into it, when it was time, maybe we would not be facing the current situation.

Another commission will be created under Bill C-73, and once more regulations will be issued without being submitted to Parliament. There is a gap in our procedures. I submit once more that regulations should be approved by Parliament or one of our committees. Almost every day we face problems with regulations that were issued under one statute or another, and very often we do not recognize the intent of Parliament in the regulations. Parliament's intentions are distorted, the regulations were made to fit the purpose of those who prepared the bill and submitted it to Parliament. They had different ideas than Parliament, and this creates problems. The bill also provides for the signing of agreements with the provinces. I fear this may give rise to new opportunities for the federal government to further centralize at the expense of the provinces, so I caution the government. We have had some of those agreements and because the central government proved to the provinces they were absolutely necessary, the provinces fell for it but later woke up and realized they had lost powers, which led to disputes. It will be remembered, for instance, that during the war the provinces, Quebec at least, yielded jurisdictional areas to the federal. That is what happened when Premier Godbout ceded certain rights to Ottawa. Quebec has been fighting ever since to recover the yielded rights and has much difficulty in succeeding.

Just one more minute and I am through, Madam Speaker. We shall not start another constitutional battle for all