

*Employment Support Bill*

ter does not remember having said this to his dear friend Pierre Nadeau? He does not remember this? The recording will show that the minister actually said what I have just repeated.

**Mr. Pepin:**—like good little boys!

**Mr. Caouette:** Exactly, good little boys since, it seems, we are unable to make decisions ourselves, here in Canada.

The first measure taken by the United States is to give up the gold standard. How long have we been saying, for our part, that the gold behind bank notes should be removed because it no longer has enough value. Créditistes have always claimed that. Why? Because gold is scarce and does not exist in sufficient quantities in times of plenty. That is so true that we still had a gold-guarantee, until May 1, 1940 but at the beginning of the 1939-1945 war that is on May 1, 1940 it was soon realized that there was not enough gold, according to the gold-guarantee, to create new credits for the conduct of the war. Therefore the gold guarantee for Canada's bank notes was just abolished. And the situation is the same today. Unfortunately, there are still university professors teaching that in order to give value to gold, to Canadian currency, to Canadian credit, they must be backed by a corresponding amount of gold. Retarded people aged 30? Some are 50 years old and still believe that, still believe in Santa Claus! They are professors at the Ottawa University and the minister knows it because he was teaching there at one time. He probably told the students that our bank notes were guaranteed by gold, because he taught political economy. In fact, he was paid to say that. So, he said it, but he did not know it, because it was only around 1946, 1947 and 1948, that he learned that, since May 1, 1940, Canadian bank notes were no longer guaranteed by gold. If the minister does not believe me, he can ask his colleague, the Minister of Finance, and the latter will show him in black and white.

**Mr. Speaker,** that also proves that the present system is outmoded, that it must be changed, because the present situation was not created by the Créditistes, but by the crazy system under which we live. Well might the minister struggle with this, then tell us frankly that the bill is not a solution. The leader of the official opposition (Mr. Stanfield) rises in turn and tells us: I realize that this is no solution, but we will support the bill just the same.

The leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Lewis) says: Get mad and tax the United States! The United States are taxing imports! Let us in turn tax exports. All that we are selling in raw materials, let us tax that to fight the Americans back. And the minister said: Perhaps we would not win in the long run, we might end up losing. That I believe because our population is a mere 20 million as opposed to 200 million Americans.

Anyhow, **Mr. Speaker,** the present conditions prove that the monetary system is done with and that it should be altered. If we do not tackle it, we will witness worse difficulties than those which are now confronting us.

We are not the only ones to demand a change. The establishment of a credit paper money is now being

[Mr. Caouette.]

mentioned, not by the Creditistes but by the highest banking authorities. In an article entitled: "The Bank of America suggests a reform of the monetary system", the following could be read:

The next step could well be special drawing rights on the currency of the international financial system, said the big Californian bank. This would enable the countries—including the United States—to adjust the equivalence of their money in terms of SDR while leaving untouched the relation between SDR and gold. It would not be subsequently impossible to widen our original concept of SDR to allow them to fill more conventional functions of money than we can think it feasible up to now.

When we spoke of new credits, of the use of credits by the Bank of Canada, smart alecks in Canada, well-informed economists, claimed we were advocating funny money. And now the Bank of America proposes funny money. But it is taken seriously and governments are studying the proposal. The ten major members of the IMF meet and create paper-gold.

A country could stamp "100 million" on a slip of paper and it would be worth 100 million in gold. Where is the gold? Nowhere, but it is called 100 million in gold. I have never seen so much illogicality. That proves that what we have been clamoring for 35 years is coming true, is being understood by the whole population.

The ministers are grappling with a funny money system; they are going in circles. When the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce goes back to his riding, his electors give him a tongue lashing about the textile industry. The minister tells them—and that, before the surcharge of President Nixon—We will have you retire at 54 because the textile industry has fewer orders, less publicity than before.

But the Japanese are still exporting to Canada. We are not against trade with Japan. But the minister knows what he has to face when he visits his riding in the Eastern Townships. There, he meets all types of workers. It is impossible to create jobs precisely because not enough attention is paid to Canadian consumers.

**Mr. Speaker,** may I call it six o'clock?

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel):** It being six o'clock, I do now leave the chair.

At six o'clock the House took recess.

**AFTER RECESS**

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

**Mr. Caouette:** **Mr. Speaker,** before recess I was suggesting that instead of subsidizing the industries which will be affected by the 10 per cent surcharge announced by President Nixon, the government should rather remove the notorious excise tax, the abolition of which we are not the only ones to demand. Among the proposed recommendations, we ask, as I did this afternoon for that matter, that the sales tax on building materials be abolished. The Minister of Finance has been objecting to that for several years, but he will eventually have to revise