

*Suggested Interest-free Loans*

● (9:10 p.m.)

**An hon. Member:** The CPR got some.

**Mr. Bigg:** If the CPR got debt-free money, that was taking something they did not have coming to them. There is never something for nothing. Those who try to get it are free riders. The new doctrine of something for nothing, by right, is a lie. The people of Canada may want to give something out of the goodness of their hearts—they have done it to the extent of hundreds of millions of dollars—but there is nothing that says anybody has a right to it. No government has the right to take my charitable feelings and put them into print.

If we want to produce in this country an atmosphere in which a man can work, instead of taking away more and more of the profits of his labour we should be striving to give him more and more in his pay cheque for the work he performs. If you did this you would have fewer and fewer people needing relief. We need policies to send young people back to school. We need aggressive trade policies to sell goods in the markets of the world. We need to encourage businessmen. Forget the white paper and give the businessmen of Canada encouragement to compete in the markets of the world. They have to compete with manufactured goods in the way we have competed with agricultural products.

There is no more efficient farmer in the world than the Canadian farmer, but never has he been so hard up. The policy of lending interest-free money, money at 5 per cent, or subsidizing loans to farmers of western Canada will not do much good unless markets are found for their products. You are only hanging a debt around the farmer's neck. Why let him have \$75,000 without a well-thought out policy on how he will pay it back? There is no such thing as debt-free money, and I would never vote for it.

My friends opposite voted for debt-free money. I do not know why they have had this sensible change of heart, except that they know it was Conservative policy which put Canada back on her feet between 1957 and 1962. To the extent that this administration has followed the guidelines we gave them, we have prospered. When they have gone off into the wild blue yonder on a wild goose chase, we have come to disaster. It is the people of Canada who have paid and who will pay until we return to the common sense of hard work, thrift and obtaining foreign markets.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, as I listened to the hon. member who spoke before me deal with the motion, I was under the impression that I was sitting in the Edmonton legislature in view of the efforts made to criticize the policy of the provincial government of Alberta. However, the motion is clear and it does say:

That, in view of the government's inability to effectively combat the frightening increase in the public debt in the opinion of this house, the public sector of the Canadian economy, including the federal government, the provinces, the municipalities and the schoolboards should be financed by interest free loans—

This is where there is a lack of objectivity and efforts are made to impute motives to the Ralliement créditiste and its supporters when they defend this policy.

In my estimation, a man who earns \$100 and who agrees to lend it to a friend or a partner is really entitled to receive an interest because in some way he rents out the fruit of his labour. We recognize this and we accept it right away and I consider dishonest those who would like to make the people believe that we object to all this lending system of the fruit of one's work to an industry or to a chum. What we want especially is to lighten the burden of the individuals and the community by strongly urging the government so that all new credit based on the work, of all the Canadian people, be loaned to the federal government, the municipalities, the provinces, under an accounting system but free of interest which crushes everyone at the same time.

Last year, during a debate on pieces of legislation introduced by the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson) with regard to the Farm Credit Corporation,—to unfreeze this interest system which was frozen at 5 per cent,—our friends in the official opposition categorically objected to it arguing that it would tend to impose an extra burden on the farmers and place them in an unfavourable position.

Now, Mr. Speaker, if excessively high interest rates can create problems for private enterprise, for individuals, why should it be different in the case of the interests that crush the federal and provincial governments, all our public bodies, and those who administer them, who of necessity have to levy high enough taxes to meet their payments?