

*Distribution of Goods and Services*

years." Thirty-five years ago, we could not ask for the moon, but we have finally reached it. It may take another thirty-five years or perhaps another century, to bring it over here. Meanwhile, some poor people need help today, in 1969. Modern governments who are realists, who do not have their head in the clouds and do not wish to deceive the population, have taken concrete measures. I refer to governments who may come into power, or once were in office, and not to those who dream that one day, perhaps in a hundred or a thousand years, they will finally be called upon to conduct public affairs.

Mr. Speaker, there are social and concrete laws, and they know it. Why not admit it? There is such thing as family allowances. They are not high enough? I agree. But they exist. They did not exist thirty-five years ago.

There is the old-age pension. There are also pensions for disabled people. Medicare, student loans, subsidies, grants of the federal government for the construction of school or hospitals, all these things are to help the poor and not the rich.

The grants to universities, to research, all welfare legislation and recreation grants are real, concrete assets.

There is also the ARDA program to foster the economy of some regions and some legislative measures to help farmers. I know there could always be more. That is what our friends say to the poor of the province of Quebec. I observed that in all polls where the Cr ditiste candidate was gaining in my own county, most of the people lived on welfare allowances paid by the federal or provincial government, because they were taught by the Cr ditistes not to be satisfied with what they had.

They were not told: "You have this and that," but "You do not have enough." They were not told: "Your father did not get any of this", but "You do not have enough." They were not told: "Your grandfather did not know what welfare meant", but: "You do not have enough. Demand, demand, ask for more."

It is easy to promise the moon and the stars when you do not have to deliver. And since then, Mr. Speaker, this government has increased unemployment insurance benefits; it has promulgated a law on guaranteed minimum income which, after all, does help the needy. It has organized retraining courses in order to give more schooling to the unemployed so that they may get jobs. Grants have

been authorized to move the unemployed from one place to another where they may find a job; unemployment insurance is about to be adopted by most of the provinces. Assistance to regional promotion would have been voted if my friends from the Ralliement cr ditiste would not have spent three weeks in telling us obscene stories. Furthermore, the Canada Assistance Act is contributing to the solution of special cases. Help to consumers will be provided by the hon. minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Basford). After all, this is quite a number of laws.

Provinces are benefitting from the fiscal equalization program. Such measures tend to help the poor, the low-paid workers, those who have less financial means than others.

But to say that the government is not looking after people is not true. It is demagoguery, it is luring the public with things which my friends from the Ralliement cr ditiste could not give themselves. It is a kind of charlatanism, Mr. Speaker, which makes them say that they have magical cures to all ills.

A while ago I saw somebody laughing when the minister was mentioning that some sick persons thought that a small piece of wire around a leg or an arm could cure them. One knows the stories about those magic powders, one knows them to be false promises. One knows about those midway barkers who say "Come in and see the big show". Come in, and we will show you how to become millionaires. How to learn English in ten hours. How to play the piano in fifteen. That is what our friends of the Ralliement Cr ditiste are doing: they lure the population with unattainable prospects.

Obviously, those in poverty—they have always existed and will always exist—follow the saying that it's no use preaching to a hungry man, and they say to themselves: we might as well try that. However, they promise them things which will bring them cruel disillusion.

• (9:50 p.m.)

One may ask, Mr. Speaker, if anybody with a sense of responsibilities, who takes part in the administration of a public body as important as the federal government, which is responsible for ten provinces and 21 million people, has the right to lure an uninformed population with such bright prospects. Such a person must believe himself to be more intelligent than God, Who said: In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread. The Cr ditistes,