

*The Budget—Mr. Caouette*

However, before pursuing my remarks about the Postmaster General and Minister of Communications I want to say a few more words about the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. He said, for example:

Naturally, when guilelessly or guilefully a man starts making capital of peoples' misery, he soon knows the sweet taste of success.

That is exactly what he did all the time he was a labour leader in the province of Quebec. He was not that successful. At that time, he would have liked to be a politician but the workers rejected him as such.

And the minister went on:

Whether he is a Socialist, a Communist or a Cr ditiste, when he addresses a crowd, a group of people who are hungry, of people who are poor and when he tells them: "They should solve your problem, give you more money," I know of no speaker with a modicum of talent who will not be applauded.

It is not applause we are after, and the minister knows that. Neither is it a magic formula but a system which consists in taking the products now existing in Canada—not the potential, the uranium, the forest or water resources to be developed in 25 years from now—but what we have now which is the outcome of the labours of the Canadian people.

The Postmaster General and Minister of Communications is well aware that production is the outcome of labour. Somebody had to work to obtain that production. Whether it be man, machine, science, progress, it does not matter: somewhere a certain amount of work was done.

We are not asking for people to sit idle waiting for a national dividend. That is not what we are asking for, but a national dividend based on existing products. And this is what the minister fails to understand.

It would not be a national dividend taken from someone's pocket to be put into the pocket of someone else, because that would be socialism. What we want is a balance between the purchasing power of the people and existing production, and nothing else.

The Minister of Regional Economic Expansion said, and I quote:

That is why he is generally—

Meaning me.

—against trade-unionism which precisely seeks to ensure a better distribution of wealth.

The minister has been saying that for 30 years. Where is that better distribution of wealth?

[Mr. Caouette.]

And the minister went on:

Will miracles happen?—

—through the legislation that has just been submitted to us in parliament.

I am sure that the problem will not be settled once and for all. I know, however, that there will be less people in hardship conditions. How many? I do not know.

When? I do not know. Why? I do not know.

● (4:50 p.m.)

—I am not a magician, like the people of the Ralliement Cr ditiste. I have not found the philosopher's stone or any magic formula, I have no direct communication with the Holy Ghost.

Apparently, he does not even have any connection with intelligence, because his statement is rather embarrassing even for his colleagues.

I am simply trying, within the economic, social and political structures which I know, to help the people whom I represent.

Let us recall how he helped them, in the last election, by promising to refit the famous ship *New Liskeard* in the Lauzon dockyards, in order to get votes in Lauzon and in his constituency. The day after the election everything was forgotten.

The same thing could be said about the Canadian Vickers in Montreal. What is he doing about it? Absolutely nothing. When he is asked to establish a merchant marine, Mr. Speaker, the minister is lost in conjecture. He is at a loss what to do. A commission is being set up to determine whether a merchant marine would be economical in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, those are a few quotations from the speech the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion made in the house on May 22 last, when he lashed at the Ralliement Cr ditiste. He said, in conclusion, that the legislation is not administered by angels, and I quote:

That is true. We know that many people are poor. We are eager to fight poverty—

Instead of fighting poverty, they fight the poor.

—but as a human institution, we are, unfortunately, no match for angels.

To put finance at the service of Canadians, only angels could do such a thing. The present government is unable to do anything in that field. And those statements were confirmed by those of the Postmaster General and Minister of Communications, who said:

That is no longer economics, Mr. Speaker,