

The Address—Mr. Caouette

completed and requires the attention of legislators. We hope that the revision will be made in a new perspective and that consideration will be given to the Cr ditistes' proposals to ensure individual freedom, and economic, political and social security for Canadians.

Even though it is said in the speech from the throne that "our country enjoys an unprecedented period of prosperity and growth", we are not that enthusiastic about the economic future of Canada.

In Canada, people worry because the deficit of our current accounts with the United States, which had fallen to \$1.1 billion in 1962, amounted to \$2 billion for the past year.

I see that some hon. members are smiling but that deficit results from the fact that we buy more from foreign countries than we sell to them, or that we sell below cost price. Some adjustments are needed in this very important field.

It is impossible to expect an improvement of our trade balance in the near future. Moreover, it is feared that the fixed exchange rate of the Canadian dollar may be in serious jeopardy.

It seems to us that in such troubled times the government should see clearly how much its financial system is obsolete and inefficient. Before going any further, Mr. Speaker, I wish to embark on a digression. As you know, a few days after the election, the United States imposed credit restrictions and forbade Americans to invest in the province of Quebec, in short anywhere in Canada.

If at that time the federal government had taken its responsibilities and stated that inasmuch as Americans would cease to invest in Canada, it would use the Bank of Canada to create the credit necessary to complete or replace American investments, then I feel it would have shown good judgment and assumed its own responsibilities.

• (12:10 p.m.)

But in reading the speech from the throne, we find that the government is not taking appropriate and urgent action to provide favourable conditions for a sound economy. We also note that it is not taking the proper measures to encourage individual initiative.

The taxes that the government takes so much pleasure in imposing burden the personal income at the source and discourage all initiative which has enabled individuals to carry on until now. Surely, taxes are not economic incentives, and thus it becomes increasingly impossible to make personal savings. Such persistence in reducing personal

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income at the source discourages individual initiative at the outset.

Individuals, workers, farmers, homemakers, professionals and every citizen will be working only to pay their due to the government, and whatever is left will be spent on the family. No long search is required to find the causes of poverty which the government has just discovered. I admire the government's intentions to pretend to wage war against poverty in this country. It is assuredly a noble sentiment. But the government "measures to reduce poverty" are pitiful for they will only increase the poverty we now deplore. How, indeed, can we claim to help the individual achieve a decent living standard when a large share of his salary is taken from him? This is ridiculous and utopian for any sensible and realistic person.

These policies of the present government clearly reveal strong socialist tendencies. Individual security and liberty are thwarted, personal initiative is discouraged although it is a well-known fact that the Canadian economy is based upon private enterprise and individual initiative. But the government, through its action, tends to socialize the individual, his liberty, his security, and thus removes any chance of survival which free and private enterprise might have.

Mr. Speaker, this system of liberty and security which the people are clamouring for, this system of free enterprise must be respected; otherwise, we will only accelerate the frightening rise in prices and salaries in our country.

This system, under which individuals enjoy the greatest possible freedom, stimulates individual initiatives and assigns to a greater number the task of taking decisions, while permitting a more rational sharing of available human and material resources. It must be respected, it must be promoted. This cannot be done through socialist measures, to which the Ralliement Cr ditiste intends to object very strongly.

In a free enterprise system the government's task is to ensure conditions favourable to individual initiatives. To this end the individual must be given the means to take the initiatives which he needs for his development. The Ralliement Cr ditiste intends to support and promote any legislation encouraging free enterprise and individual initiative.

It is not everything to throw dust in the eyes of the people by creating such false problems as national unity or by advancing all sorts of problems such as the majority