

*Distribution of Goods and Services*

I heard the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) tell us not so long ago: let us increase our productivity. We do not even manage to dispose of our present production, and stupid people talk about increasing it on the ground that it would solve the economic problem. But it is exactly the opposite that happens: we still have production surpluses. Underconsumption does exist in Canada. We are more concerned with getting into bedrooms than with solving economic problems. What have we been doing for a month and a half? We have been studying Bill C-150 to know whether a man could go to bed with another man and whether women could get an abortion. We have been discussing all sorts of things.

According to the government, economic matters are not urgent.

At present, we are still dealing with the question of official languages, which is no doubt important, but not the most important. Those who are hungry, in Montreal, in Quebec City, or in my own area are not calling for a legislation on languages. They are asking for bread, clothes and decent housing, because those are their needs.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Caouette:** There is a common saying: It's no use preaching to a hungry man. If the government were more hungry, it might listen more readily to grievances than it is doing now. But we have everything we need in this house. It is obvious. But our constituents, our fellow citizens, in short all Canadians are lacking something when there are in our country 432,000 unemployed.

Mr. Speaker, if the problem is not tackled at the root, it is because governments are controlled by financial interests. "Tell me who pays you, I will tell who you serve". This old saying still goes and is still true. When some people are elected with electoral funds, they shut up in the house. That prevents people from taking a stand.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Caouette:** Some will say that the problem does not exist in Canada alone, but if government authorities do not take a stand, Mr. Speaker, who will run the risk of tackling economic problems?

In the U.S. publication *The Machinists* of May 15, one could read the following: "Money

[Mr. Caouette.]

lenders dominate this Congress", with reference to the American Congress—

[English]

Money lenders dominate this Congress.

One out of five members of the present Congress in Washington has financial ties with banks or savings and loan institutions.

[Translation]

—so those people cannot speak freely. A kind of financial muzzle prevents them from defending the small, the oppressed, those who need protection and deserve it. Where is the evil, the obstacle which paralyses the distribution of plentiful wealth?

In 1934, a world-famous American economist, whose books are translated in French, Harold G. Moulton, made a study of the material resources and the services the United States could provide to individuals and families. In his book "America's Capacity to Produce", he came to the conclusion that at the peak of their prosperity, of the boom, they produced to only 80 per cent of their capacity and in the worst period of depression, to only 50 per cent.

At the same time, some people are destitute. Some are without work, unemployment is tolerated or, in other words, it is poverty amid riches.

In 1934, here in Canada heaps of wheat were burnt, flour bags were thrown in lakes Superior, Erie and Ontario, potatoes were blue-washed in New Brunswick, oranges were poisoned in the United States and millions of gallons of milk were poured daily in the sewers of New York, and Chicago.

At the same time, there were 6 million unemployed in the United States and about 600,000 or 700,000 in Canada, while our population was only some ten or eleven million.

Mr. Speaker, those are facts. Goods are destroyed rather than being distributed. What is lacking? Production? No. Distribution!

This is what Economist Moulton wrote in his book, and he added that yet thousands of people were starving to death.

One could say the same of Canada today. Plants are not operating at full capacity in many areas and there are 432,000 unemployed in Canada, according to official statistics. The increase in the number of people with jobs between the months of March and April has been higher than usual for this time of year. The figure of 7 million represented an increase of 158,000, but our population has increased more than that. The situation in Canada is worse than ever.