

examples? Money came by millions, even by billions, as much as it was needed, and this in every country at war. Where did that money come from? Surely not by opening gold mines, because workers were not directed towards gold mines, but towards armies and ammunition plants. Money came by a stroke of the pen, by the simple decision to make it come. Those are the people you ought to try to find, my friends! With that, if all together we manage to find those who decide when the money should come and make them take out their pen, and if we draft legislation to make them act at the right time, we shall see that with Local Initiative Programs and Canada Works and Youth Canada Works programs, we will be able to resolve all those problems, and the number of unemployed will decrease.

This will wrong nobody, have no fear about it. This is not dangerous for inflation. Inflation we have, and those people control their pens and nobody seems willing to control them. Inflation we have, and inflation we fight against. When we try to jugulate—that again is another word which has become very in lately—inflation, unemployment appears and then we are dealing with two evil-minded twins. We cannot find any solution.

I most sincerely think it is about time to find a solution. I suggest ours. As soon as we understand it, we can no longer say we are short of money when money alone will move goods from shelves into households. Lack of money then is a criminal liability fraught with consequences. If we only thought about all the misery there is here in Canada! Fairly respectable people looked into the problem of poverty for months and they concluded that there were thousands of poor in Canada.

Poor people suffer miseries and privations. We are responsible. Then how come we who earn good salaries have ideal working conditions? I know what it is to chop pulpwood for 50 cents a cord. I know what it is to work for 50 cents a day. Today I am very happy with my living conditions but all those who enjoy the better things in life should never forget that some people live in misery because of the hardships we cause them by not considering the situation as it is. No government in wartime—I challenge anyone to deny this—would have agreed to lay off its soldiers or close its ammunition plants because of a lack of money. How could those same governments let individuals and families, by the hundreds,—that is going on even now—suffer from hunger and sickness, lose their homes and farms merely for lack of money? Not so long ago, a citizen of my area put this question to me which I find brilliant. He was speaking to me about the Anti-Inflation Act. He said: I am watching the implementation of that famous act to some extent, though I have not read it and I would like you to try and find out whether the board and its many civil servants has at some time put a break on the increase in taxes, municipal, school or other; so try to find out about that. That would be important because when taxes go up here, naturally it costs us more to keep up the house, to send our children to school. So the Anti-Inflation Board should also control tax increases.

Governmental Debt

In closing, I thank the Chair for having extended my time. To my mind, the country must not buy money. That fact must be recognized. It must create it itself. It may be a bit more difficult, but you'll see how easy it is. It is the sovereign right of the state. It belongs to us. It is a matter of using it instead of allowing ourselves to be controlled by a small team of bankers who decide whether people will eat three or four times a day. It is easy to see that does not make sense. A country cannot be managed if it does not use its sovereign right. The economy is distorted, turned upside down, damaged and that is what we have today.

I trust some of my suggestions will be followed, and that studies will be encouraged in that sense, that an attempt will be made to understand what ails that infamous monetary system, why we are controlled by a group of people who deprive everyone; even though Canada is rich, as I said at the beginning, tremendously rich, it is inhabited by people a high percentage of whom are poor in the midst of that wealth.

Mr. Claude Tessier (Compton): Mr. Speaker, first, let me tell you how pleased I am to take part in this debate because as concerns the indebtedness of governments, public bodies and municipalities, I share the same concern as my colleagues of the Social Credit party, although I would not propose the same solutions which I find simplistic. I may perhaps echo an old story that we have been hearing back home for 12 years and that I am still hearing in the House after more than two years.

I wish to point out the difference between an opposition member who can always ask for more regardless of cost and a government member who must decide on priorities and appropriate and redistribute public funds. I blame my Creditistes colleagues for exploiting the people's credibility by harping on the same string, but to be more positive, I would rather urge them to go deeper in search of solutions. I feel that for my colleagues opposite, it is a marketing problem, and they should understand that the House of Commons is the place where it is most difficult to understand, first because most people do not buy anything for want of money and second because those who would normally buy have quite different demands, as their mandate is quite different. However, I agree that we stop to think and try to find means to rectify a situation which could become catastrophic when I consider that the federal government had a deficit of some \$4 billion last year, that the province of Quebec alone had a deficit of more than \$1 billion and that my own little town with a population of 7,000 and with a budget of \$1.7 billion might have an annual deficit of nearly \$100,000 as things are. But if this discussion is just an oral dispute, there will be two causes for the catastrophe instead of one. I think we can come back to the proposal of our colleague, the hon. member for Kamouraska (Mr. Dionne), who told us we should look at our own budgets; there is certainly a way to face debts very efficiently, namely by deciding not to run into debt. This gives us the advantage of not having to pay interests which we find extravagant.