

*The Address—Mr. Frenette*

that he wanted to solve the unemployment problem by promising a \$500 bonus for every new house that would be built during the winter months in accordance with the federal plan. But we all know that this is deceiving the Canadian people because the tax increase on building materials will add from \$800 to \$1,000 to the price of a house. Who is going to pay this amount, in the final analysis, if not the purchaser of the house? I know personally that work is always more expensive in winter than in a warm season, like summer. Winter climate is severe, especially in Canada.

Winter works require special protection for the materials, which means additional expenses. Who pays for that? First the unfortunate buyer who wanted to take advantage of the \$500; he was lured into doing so, but when he gets the bills, then he realizes he was fooled.

When will the authorities stop deceiving the people? When will they tell them exactly the whole truth, exactly what is wanted and expected of them?

Another crucial problem is also facing our country. I refer to the lack of purchasing power in the hands of consumers. For the time being, under the present obsolete system, the only way to solve that problem on a temporary basis is to increase family allowances according to the cost of living, because we know that for the last 20 years, there has been a terrific increase in the cost of living, while family allowances have increased by only \$1. That is a ridiculous situation.

Moreover, the case I mentioned a while ago, of the unfortunate head of a family who has to support seven, eight, 10 and even 13 people with only the income he gets from his work shows that those homes lack even the bare necessities of life. Therefore, it is imperative to increase family allowances in order to increase the purchasing power of those large families, so that there will no longer be misery in the midst of plenty.

When I came back to the House of Commons, I expected that at least two things would be mentioned in the speech from the throne: sensible family allowances, and some means of stopping unemployment.

We, that is, not only the representatives of the Canadian people, but the whole population, were disappointed by that empty throne speech, which contained nothing definite or concrete.

Unemployment still prevails. Production slows down, of course, in times of unemployment. The lack of buying power on the part of the people as a whole, leaves many products unsold because, on the whole, buying power never catches up with the price of unsold goods, and this causes producers to

slow down production, to discharge their employees and even to close down their plants.

The result is a state of unemployment which is reflected on the economy as a whole. As they only have a partial buying power, Canadians are only partial consumers. An appreciable part of the goods people used to buy at a certain rate, will necessarily remain unsold.

The unavoidable consequence—unless another source of buying power is found whether in public works, capital expenses, higher allowances, and so on—will be depression.

But all those expenses, though they may be a temporary source of buying power, have to be paid back one day at which time, there will be larger debts and heavier taxes, which will bring about a new decrease of buying power.

Mr. Speaker, we would have many more things to say to press the government into doing something, into taking quick action. There is now a feeling that the Canadian people wants something new in this country and that more particularly the French Canadians are dissatisfied. How did this come about? Well, there is, first of all the fact that the part played in our economy by the province of Quebec is smaller than that of the other provinces. That problem must be tackled before it is too late; and the government is fully aware of the fact.

Indeed, the Prime Minister's own statements like the one he recently made in Toronto, to the effect that he was quite aware of something being wrong, of a latent menace, or, to sum it up, of a bomb being about to explode in our province of Quebec, and even throughout Canada, if quick action was not taken, prove that our leaders are well informed in respect of the present conditions.

I believe therefore that it is high time to tackle the unemployment problem first. I beseech this government to do something within the next few days. The matter is urgent. The government should immediately put a stop to unemployment and increase family allowances. I do not doubt that such a policy would be most welcome everywhere in this country if the government were to apply it within the next month or so.

**Mr. Jean-Louis Frenette (Portneuf):** Mr. Speaker, we are now living the last day of the traditional debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne. For a week, we have heard suggestions, some fortunate, and others less fortunate, from all sides, the purpose of which was to accelerate or improve administration in Canada.