

*The Address—Mr. A. Lambert*

conomic dictatorship is consolidated in the hands of a few, who often are not owners but only the trustees and managing directors of invested funds which they administer according to their own arbitrary will and pleasure.

This dictatorship is being most forcibly exercised by those who, since they hold the money and completely control it, control credit also and rule the lending of money.

... This could even exist at the government level.

Hence, they regulate the flow so to speak, of the lifeblood whereby the entire economic system lives, and have so firmly in their grasp the soul, as it were, of economic life, that no one can breathe against their will.

This is so true that important and urgent projects are delayed from year to year, precisely owing to the shortage of money, that economic blood which must serve the nation rather than exploit it.

I am quite surprised to note that many individuals in a position to communicate with the public ruthlessly criticize the activities of politicians who are an easy target. They are unkind to politicians, but those same persons are extremely timorous when the established economic order, the financial and monetary systems are concerned. It looks as if they spend all their energy blaming the political order, but they do not dare deal with the stock market, lobbying, speculation, trusts, unrestricted competition, monopolizing, collusion, false advertising, kick-backs, disrupted trade due to the greed of unscrupulous agents. Yet, it should be done in order to improve and transform the system.

Mr. Speaker, the reform of our capitalistic system will be achieved by people who are respectful of law and order, and I believe that it is easily understood here that every one of us is working towards this goal. However there are outside elements of lawlessness at work trying to change our economic system. It is only a small group resorting to unethical means and it is the responsibility of the House to try and effect the change in peace and order.

If nothing is done our system will be destroyed by anarchic elements. It is up to us to make the choice while there is still time. One thing is certain: our system cannot remain what it is today, particularly in the area of distribution, where an abundant production is ensured by man's labour, by science, equipment and discoveries of all kinds. This accumulation of goods in the presence of needs that remain unsatisfied is an injustice which prompts the Canadian people to lend a sympathetic ear to those who advocate violence and disorder.

I think it is high time we reacted if we do not want to witness here what has happened in other countries.

In January of 1969 in London, the Right Hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) replying to a newspaperman who had asked him what would be the solution to the economic problems of Canada, the Prime Minister coolly stated that he would favour true communism as the ideal solution.

I hope that the newspaper reports of his words were incorrect because we, as Canadians, have better things to do than try to establish in our country a communist regime which has never proved satisfactory elsewhere.

[Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse).]

However, history tells us that in every country where there is a communist regime, that has been brought about through the action of a very small number of revolutionaries.

In an encyclical letter, Pope Pius XI said:

Social and economic organization will be properly structured and will realize its objective only if it provides all its members with all the goods that natural and industrial resources and a truly social organization of the economy are able to provide, these being sufficient to provide each and everyone with an honest living.

Mr. Speaker, no one is asking for more. We want the smallest and the weakest member of society to have the minimum required or a decent living.

We should all eagerly aim at such an objective. The Speech from the Throne deals with it when it defines what should be our society. In fact, we can read the following:

- a society in which human differences are regarded as assets, not liabilities;
- a society in which individual freedom and equality of opportunity remain as our most cherished possessions;
- a society in which the enjoyment of life is measured in qualitative, not quantitative terms;
- a society which encourages imagination and daring, ingenuity and initiative, not coldly and impersonally for the sake of efficiency, but with warmth and from the heart as between friends.

This is the definition given in the Speech from the Throne and I endorse it. If the government with the help of the Canadian Parliament could achieve this objective of a well organized "just society", I think it would solve a great number of our present problems.

Jacques Maritain said that all men had an equal right to the use of material wealth.

The family is the vital cell of society and the true aim of economic activities is to insure the true common good, that is to say the necessary minimum income.

The fruits of the present future production result, for the greater part, from social capital accumulated over generations and those proceeds should be distributed in a "social" way to each and every member of society, as his right.

With the coming of automation, labour, which was formerly the main source of income, is becoming ever less necessary. That is why we have hundreds of unemployed who, because of our present economic system, are not entitled to share the fruits of production because they did not contribute to it by their manual labour.

In an open letter to the former president of the United States some American economists and sociologists have stated that in consideration of the fact that production is liberating human work without being able to take advantage of it in a useful way, the first condition to be implemented in order to avoid unprecedented economic and social disorder is to ensure to everyone a guaranteed minimum income.