

*Suggested Interest-free Loans*

We in the Conservative party have been consistent throughout the years. Taking over in 1957, we found the country bankrupt as it is today. We found the people of Canada starving in the midst of plenty. We found them with too much grain, too many cattle, too many hogs, too many chickens and nobody to buy these things. So we adopted the only answer—not a quick answer, and not a sharpened pencil. We adopted a rolled-up sleeves, back to work, back to trading policy and we balanced the country's budgets. We got the economy rolling. The only sorrow of Canadians is that they allowed the same old gang to take over again and put us back where we were 13 sad years ago.

We must go back to work in order to compete in the markets of the world. We have efficiency in the working people of Canada. This is no class war that I am waging. In this context I mean the people who are producing, the small businessman, the manufacturer, the efficient builder of houses and the entrepreneur. They are the real source of wealth in this country and no government has a right to tax them, no government has a right to lay red herrings across the trail—Socialist red herrings or Social Credit red herrings—because only through hard work, with reasonable prices and solid world markets, can we regain our feet.

Solid world markets made success possible for us, after we were forced to devalue the dollar, not because of any fault of ours but because Canada was bankrupt. We took the only way out. We got back into the export markets of the world. We recovered our share of the export markets and we sold every bushel of grain until the boast of the Minister of Agriculture of that day was, "You grow it; we will sell it." It is a long time since anybody has dared to say that about agriculture or any other sector of the economy, except perhaps nickel, uranium and some of the other hardware of war.

● (9:00 p.m.)

No government has ever been proud that the only way Canada could keep afloat was to supply the world with war materials. You are getting this from a self-declared hawk, Mr. Speaker. I am a hawk to the extent that I believe in the full defence of Canada. I do not believe in a "respectable" budget for defence which is designed to fool the Americans and bamboozle the Canadian taxpayers. It does not fool the Americans, Mr. Speaker. We have not saved a cent in the defence budget.

[Mr. Bigg.]

We have no defence in Canada, and taxes remain the same. How long can this bamboozling go on?

For 25 years we have had Social Credit rule in Alberta, and the people of that province snort in disdain when debt-free money is mentioned. Grow up! This is the twentieth century. Nobody accepts this kind of promise now, although it put the Social Credit government in power. Nobody believed the old shin-plaster about \$25 a month when it was promised. Nobody has believed it since, and nobody believes it now. Nobody will believe this resurrection of a concept that never was born. It is an old story.

I find it passing strange, Mr. Speaker, that anybody would dare pretend that an experiment like this would work, for 25 years when they have had the finest opportunity, in the richest province in Canada, to put it into effect and nothing has been done but to give a \$20 bill. That is all the people of Alberta ever got. This scheme is a dead loss; it would not even pay the interest on \$25 a month for one year. For the last 20 years I have been hearing this empty nonsense, and I am tired of it. If the Social Crediters of Canada would only take a good look at the facts, they would realize that the only effective action in this situation is for all of us to get together with good, old-fashioned common sense, old-fashioned hard work and old-fashioned effort to retrieve the export markets of the world and compete with western Europe, the United States and Asia. We can show that the people of Canada have been, are now and always will be efficient.

**An hon. Member:** The same old speech that we have heard before.

**Mr. Bigg:** You will hear it a good many times from me. I can be consistent. I have never changed my view and neither has the party that I have the honour to represent. We have worked for balanced budgets, which is the best form of debt-free money you can get. You cannot pile up a national debt if you pay as you go, and that is the only honest way of going about it. Everybody within sound of my voice—and I imagine that is everybody in this chamber—knows that there is no such thing as debt-free money; there is no such thing as something for nothing. You will never get something for nothing. We believe in paying as we go. We believe in paying our debts and giving people a fair return for the money they have saved. I would not ask people to give us money debt free. That is to steal—