

Distribution of Goods and Services

• (9:40 p.m.)

Mr. Caouette: Yes, poor in spirit.

Mr. Mongrain: Whatever means you take, there will always be some poor people.

I understand it is our responsibility to fight poverty by all means and this is what we are trying to do as far as possible, and perhaps our friends, the *Créditistes*, are not aware of it, because they are satisfied with the semblance of truth.

Nevertheless, it is said that, actually, Canada's economy ranks third in the whole world, the first place being held by West Germany and the second, by the Netherlands. I am not saying those things in order to suggest that we should be satisfied with the situation that is ours. It is true that we must always strive for perfection.

I should like during a few short minutes to answer a statement I have often heard from the spokesmen of the *Ralliement créditiste*, who are rightly complaining that poverty exists in Canada. This is what they say: There is a gross national income of \$67 billion in Canada, expenditures amount to about \$47 billion. Then, where are—and I quote these figures roughly, naturally—where are the other \$20 billion going?

And they suggest that this amount simply goes into what they call the capitalists' pockets, because once in a while they favour private enterprise, then socialism. They say they are against socialism; but the next day, they declare themselves in favour of private enterprise.

Their reasoning is somewhat difficult to follow. Let me show you. I take the official figure. The gross national income is \$67 billion.

Mr. Caouette: That is not income, but production. That is something else.

Mr. Mongrain: Let us say that there is \$100 million more for the year 1968. The official statistics indicate, however, that in that \$67 billion gross national income, there is what we can call some indirect capitalization drawn from taxes and used, for instance, for the maintenance of roads, schools, hospitals and various similar public services, these requiring altogether from the various governments in Canada about \$9,500 million each year. This means that the \$67 billion are somewhat reduced.

There is also another part of that gross national product which helps to cope with

[Mr. Mongrain.]

what is called the depreciation of businesses, farms, dwellings, industrial equipment and this is as important, for example, as the workers' tools if we wish to maintain the productivity in the country which includes another \$7½ billion.

This means that we have already reached some \$16 or \$17 billion which must be subtracted from those \$67 billion.

There is another \$7½ billion which is affected by the federal and provincial governments to welfare services of all sorts. There is a wide range of them.

This is to say, that after having noted that the gross national product amounts to \$67,100 million of gross national product, according to the figures for 1968, there only remains \$42,600 million for the daily needs of Canadians. Now, our friends from the *Ralliement créditiste* ask: "Where does the rest go?" Well it is there. They know it, because they are as well informed as we are, but they play the devil's advocate; they forget to quote the figures that they should quote under certain circumstances.

I would say, that they are not more justified when upholding the cause of poverty to say that the government has done nothing and when I refer to the government I include the previous governments as well as the present one, because according to them, they are all governments of bad guys financed by slush funds who have sold themselves body and soul to financiers. There is an American saying: "Ignorance is bliss." Our friends of the *Ralliement créditiste* are blissful people. There are so many things that they are ignorant of.

In addition, they have another complex, the Pharisee complex: "God I thank thee that I am not as other men are."

I alone am good. No other man is virtuous. I have much sympathy for my friends, the *Créditistes*, and even though I do not share their opinion, I shall fight until I die to protect their right to err, and to err, and to err again. But I would object if they kept on deceiving their constituents who have less opportunity to get information, and who, for some reasons outside their competence, may be simple souls, with a poor grasp of public affairs.

Briefly, I would like to say that our present government is not dreaming; it clearly sees the needs of the Canadian collectivity and wants to solve them, not in thirty-five years from now, as one speaker said earlier. He said: "We have been waiting for thirty-five