

people of the underdeveloped regions poorer than they are. That is one of the difficulties with which we are faced and that is why we absolutely need a regional development policy because the phenomenon is real, since this is the way Canada is made.

While the unemployment level is rather low in Ontario, it is very high in the Maritimes and in the eastern part of Quebec.

In Ontario, price pressures are very strong but almost inexistent in Maritimes.

But changing the fiscal system for the sake of the Maritime provinces, would result in more inflation in Ontario and in the provinces who now enjoy real affluence. The balance is a delicate one to establish.

Naturally, it would be simpler to say to the Bank of Canada: Print two billions, worth of dollar bills tomorrow and give them to the poor. The problem would then be solved. How happy I would be, as would be everyone else! How happy the capitalists would be! But what can we do? We know that even the parties closest to the people have never considered it possible. Even those who were prepared to die for a political ideal never believed it possible.

As for us, we are humans looking for truth in the darkness. We are not privileged enough to be in the paradise of light and evidence, and with all our imperfections, we try to help people who need it.

What I do not accept is people saying that the government has not acted promptly enough. Some may say to the government that there is a lot more to do. I find that quite normal, because I spent my life repeating it, and I do not blame those who say so, nor those who are putting the pressure on. It is part of the internal mechanism of our democracy, and from the moment these mechanisms cease to work, we will be in an extremely serious situation.

Therefore, I quite understand that. But telling the people, in high-soaring flights of demagogic eloquence that nothing is done for the poor, the small ones, for the economic problems of this country, smacks of demagoguery, I am sorry to say. As a matter of fact, some things are being done and we can take as witnesses the old age pensioners. Of course, they do not go and spend the winter in Florida with their pension. I admit it. Such remarks can make anybody laugh.

However, when two elderly persons in a family each receive now \$109 a month, they can at least get the bare necessities, go to the

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hospital and be treated free. If there is a blind person in the family, he is entitled to an allowance. It therefore means that in this country, there is a social security system which, in spite of its shortcomings, is complete enough, at least to provide for all cases of extreme hardship.

We also have an assistance plan of which the federal government shares 50 per cent of the costs. Of course, it is no great catch.

Besides, I can remember the time when the workers at my hon. friend's garage, the hon. member for Témiscamingue, went on strike. They felt they were not highly paid, but the garage owner told them: All the same, I cannot give you more than you produce in the garage. I do not know whether he was right or wrong, but his argument could surely be justified.

But what are we expected to do? I, for one, have no financial interest anywhere, not even in a garage. I hold no interest in any bank, in any system in the world. If I were convinced that by printing two billion dollars tomorrow morning, I could settle the political problem of Canada, you can be sure that, being in a better position than the hon. member for Témiscamingue, I would surely steal his formula.

It is really easy to accuse others of bad faith, and of gerrymandering with electoral funds.

I was never deterred from doing anything because of electoral funds. If the time should ever come when that is the case, you may be sure of one thing and that is that I shall no longer be here, because I have no interest in such things.

I am not saying that our friends are dishonest. On the contrary, they have the same good faith as the man who came to our place wearing a piece of wire on his foot and I admire that, because it is a matter of faith, and I respect those who have faith, even if it is not the same as mine.

At any rate, the federal government has always tried ever since confederation to equalize income, with more or less success.

First of all a railroad was built, in the belief that this would help to create a common market, that all regions of the country would benefit by it and develop harmoniously. It was found to be untrue.

At the same time, the Maritimes shipyards were ruined; the Maritimes became poor, while eastern Quebec and Ontario prospered.