

to give us financial permission to develop our own country.

At the same time, Canadians are being refused, not only the possibility of taking part in the economic progress of Canada, but their share of this production made by the machine rather than by them, since they are unemployed.

Mr. Speaker, if this government is unable to achieve a just society, if it cannot discharge its duties, its commitments, if all it can do is travel and organize useless federal-provincial constitutional conferences, let it move over and we shall do the job.

Suppression of poverty is a collective responsibility. Let us not forget that poverty generates poverty, and that the poor, the dependents of government, the unemployed no longer accept to be deprived of the essential and that modern mass media invite them to live the good life even though they are deprived of the basic necessities.

The disorders experienced in our Canadian cities are due to the existence of poverty in the midst of affluence rather than to ideologies or constitutions.

In Quebec, Mr. Speaker, some 600,000 individuals are included among the social welfare recipients whose family income varies between \$1,500 and \$2,000 per year, that is from \$35 to \$45 per week. They are the ones who live in the slums of our cities, on lands which they have toiled to clear up, generation after generation. Today, with its dairy policy, its policies on wheat and agriculture generally, the government discourages them and reduces them to utter destitution, while depriving them of a guaranteed minimum income. My colleagues who represent those unfortunate areas in our towns as well as in the country know that the government gorges itself on publicity with its just society, but ignores the fate of those people.

And when the children of those individuals, living in the Saint-Henri district in Montreal or in slums Lotbinière or elsewhere on land which their forefathers have toiled to clear up—from which they are banished by the government—see the situation, they revolt. And, as my hon. colleague from Témiscamingue (Mr. Caouette), the leader of the Social Credit, said, we cannot accept their violent methods but we cannot blame them either since that is their only resort in a society which refuses to open its doors to them.

This government could say, as they do in Quebec: We spend five billion dollars on education annually. But why? To teach them to become educated unemployed? That they might realize their hardships even more? If at least that were the case, we could perhaps change something; but today education has become a welfare institution: it encourages the young to study a long time because there is no work for them. Why not spend as much money to create jobs as is invested in education?

Education is a wonderful thing, Mr. Speaker, provided it truly reaches the population and it really serves the interests of the individual to enable him to attain self-fulfillment.

In conclusion, small wage earners...

Alleged Non-Institution of Just Society

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order. I regret to interrupt the hon. member but the time allotted to him has expired.

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Speaker...

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order. Does the House agree to let the hon. member continue his remarks?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Fortin: I thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank my colleagues for their kindness.

I would like to add that all small wage earners in Victoriaville, Warwick and elsewhere, in short in Quebec and in Canada, as well as low income farmers and it is the great majority—are in a state of stagnation, always because of the government policy of the Prime Minister. Because of the policy of this government, the 800,000 unemployed are in a bad predicament. So two Quebecers out of five are completely helpless and destitute. Such is the just society policy of the government.

Mr. Speaker, we must ensure an adequate guaranteed income; that is a social right which all Canadians should enjoy. The Cr ditistes believe that every Canadian is entitled to a guaranteed income. This social right can only be guaranteed by the Social Credit. And the Social Credit alone can achieve such a right for every individual.

A program designed to give every Canadian a satisfactory guaranteed annual income—considered as a social right—should be implemented without delay through a national dividend and compensated discount system.

If the just society is to be anything but a vain and fragile abstraction, it must be based on some basic and intangible rights, including social, civil and civic rights. This government is creating crises out of thin air, such as the October crisis for instance, to justify its infringements upon the social, civic and legal rights of the citizens. While dangling these things before people the useless struggle continues within the precincts of the federal-provincial conferences as to who will tax them.

Among social rights, none is more important than the basic right of sufficient income. It is therefore imperative that we make this socio-economic objective an integral part of our set of values. Instead of putting high finance at the top of our scale of values, let us give priority to human value.

First of all, let us abolish the 11 per cent sales tax on building materials that penalizes the little man. This 11 per cent tax is infamous since it is inflationary and increases the price of housing.

If the government is true to itself in pretending to combat inflation, let it abolish without delay all monetary or fiscal policies it adopted to create inflation.

In 1969, the Minister of Transport, following a report by a task force, declared himself ready to agree to the abolition of the 11 per cent tax, but the Minister of Finance refused to do so.