

and elsewhere. Obviously, the process through which power is removed from the individual and concentrated in the hands of the government has reached a very advanced stage in Canada, and it is still in action.

Yet, this is the exact opposite of what should prevail. Society exists to serve the individual and not to dominate or manipulate him. The Créditistes see in the institution of a guaranteed annual income program one of the means through which this deplorable tendency in our society could be checked.

If we admit that all citizens have the right to dispose of enough money to meet their basic needs, they will then be in a position to choose their own priorities and make their own choices.

There will then be no need for them to accept the mere pittance of the government which too often reaches them in the wrong way or at the wrong time. They will be able to control the economic policy of the country to a greater degree and one dollar spent will up to a certain extent constitute a vote indicating industry that the consumer, not the government or the bank manager is satisfied with a particular product.

The industries which will not be able to meet the expectations and the yearnings of the individual consumers will not be able to stay in business. Some will object, saying that some individuals would be unable to meet their basic needs, even if they had enough money.

This could be true but the circumstances in which such a situation applies are very rare. Moreover, people can really become masters of their own life and learn how to control their needs only through the practice of free choice and decision making.

However, they cannot become free citizens if they cannot express their claims efficiently and if they do not have the means to express their demands.

The Créditiste guaranteed annual income scheme would favour the development of serious and responsible citizens. In my opinion, almost everyone in our society, struggles for freedom and economic security. But one does not want to deal with the problem, to accept plausible solutions.

The establishment of a guaranteed annual income scheme such as the one proposed by the Social Credit Party of Canada would be a giant step towards freedom and economic security for all Canadians.

To conclude, Mr. Speaker, I will say that the Canadians who are at grips with the present social assistance plans are fed up with the mere pittance they get and which only contributes to discourage them and to maintain them in misery and that the other Canadians who foot the bill are also fed up with seeing the government penalizing them to maintain needy people in misery.

[English]

**Mr. G. H. Whittaker (Okanagan Boundary):** Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I enter this debate on a Créditiste motion for a guaranteed annual income. I compliment the hon. member for Champlain (Mr. Matte) on bringing forward this important subject for debate today. The two important words in the motion are "guaranteed" and "inflation". I wish to inform hon. members of

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the way I was taught to approach life. I was taught that Canada was not built on guarantees but with blood, sweat and tears.

We have entered into a period of great change. We are in the scientific age. Most scientific discoveries have been made within the lifetime of those living today. This is true of at least 80 per cent of discoveries. Machines, automation and other things that were never dreamed of are coming upon us very quickly. The automation of companies is designed to make the maximum use of machines. Machines cannot be justified unless they can put people out of work and this causes a great problem.

We have had, and are having, a migration of population from rural to urban areas. This is causing many problems. In addition, we are faced with a very high rate of inflation. This has helped add to poverty in this country and it has worsened the position in which people find themselves. In one year the dollar has eroded by almost 10 per cent because of inflation. I receive many letters from people who are concerned about how they are going to make out in today's world.

We have come a long way. Whether we like it or not, we have a great many guarantees. This afternoon the hon. member for Ontario (Mr. Cafik) did his best to justify many programs. They are, of course, in the form of guarantees. I do not think I could justify them in the same manner, after reading the many letters I have received from people in my constituency, people for whom these programs just are not working: I do not know whether it is because of the high rate of inflation, but I suspect that may be the answer. This is my first year in this House so I cannot compare the reasons now given by constituents with those of previous years. But without doubt this is the highest rate of inflation we have ever experienced.

We have many types of pension programs as well as an unemployment insurance program. These cause people in the work force many concerns. I receive a good deal of mail from people who retired a few years ago. Their pension is based on the salary they received at that time. Because of the erosion of the dollar and the high cost of living, they cannot maintain the standard of living they were used to in the past. People retiring today are in a much better position. Ten years ago people were retired at \$200 a month; today they are being retired at \$500 a month. People who retired ten years ago want to know why the pension plan cannot be changed so that they too can be brought up to the standard of living of those who retire today. It is not a cost of living escalation they want. This is the sort of question people are asking.

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The unemployment insurance scheme is coming under fire because, it is said, the scheme is being abused. Those who level this criticism are the people who are paying into the scheme. All the security measures in force today, such as welfare, unemployment insurance, pensions, even the baby bonus, must be paid for by someone. It would not be so bad if these programs were doing the job they ought to be doing. Young people coming out of school with an education are told: Now you have an education you can do anything you wish to do, take any kind of job and do it successfully. They get a job. The rate of pay is low. They