

Mr. BLACKMORE: What do I understand? That we shall close at six o'clock and go on at eight, or that I continue a certain length of time?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Carry on.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think it is the wish of the house that we should sit beyond six o'clock.

Mr. BLACKMORE: May I turn now to the Prime Minister's statement that the government has a policy, as set forth in the speech from the throne. I point out that the expression of that policy is nothing more than a vague meaningless platitude such as is altogether too much the custom nowadays and can mean almost anything. I am going to ask this question pointedly of the Prime Minister: Will the government permit the committee to study fully and impartially the social credit proposals for the establishment of a new order? The ministers of the crown are supposed to look into all possibilities. Up to the present time every committee I have had contact with either directly or indirectly has steered clear of social credit as though it were poison. If this committee is not prepared to examine impartially and in detail the proposals of social credit, then the committee is simply not sincere.

May I just refer to one passage in the speech of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Ilsley) the other night—a most appropriate passage in this connection. As reported on page 931 of *Hansard* the Minister of Finance said:

No country goes bankrupt in this way; no country goes bankrupt by increasing its production and devoting part or all, or more than all of that increase to a supreme cause.

Without knowing it the Minister of Finance expressed the social credit concept almost perfectly. If we in Canada can devote our ability to the production of all the goods that Canada can produce for the people of Canada and will devote that production to raising the standard of living in Canada, there is hardly any limit to the degree to which we can raise the standard of living, and that means the standard of everybody.

Will somebody tell me how that can be achieved without giving everybody more than a dividend of \$25 a month? I do not propose to discuss that. But I am going to ask one or two things regarding the minister's statement. I am going to ask hon. members, if they believe that the production of Canada can be stimulated as the minister said it could and as the war has proved it can, and devoted to the cause of raising the standard

of living in Canada, can that be done by taxation only? Can it be done by decreasing the purchasing power of the people? But that is the proposal at the basis of the Beveridge report. When hon. members answer that question they will be on their way. The government is now buying the goods we are sending across to Germany to the extent of billions of dollars, and giving them away. Yet when we propose, as the hon. member for Wetaskiwin (Mr. Jaques) did a short time ago, that some goods be given away to the Canadian people, we are regarded as the champion simpletons. Men have to do a great deal of serious thinking along new lines.

A question has been raised with regard to provincial jurisdiction. I do not propose to deal with that question at any great length, but it is about time the members of this house ceased casting reflections on Canadians who are called upon to form his majesty's governments in the various provinces of this dominion, by insinuating or suggesting or stating that they are not willing to govern this country properly. If the correct policies are adopted by Ottawa every province will fall in line. If Ottawa discovers a system whereby it can put in financial form that tremendous production which it is possible for us to have; if it can discover a medium of distribution to the provinces, every province will fall in line. There will be no need of spoiling the British North America Act. Can you imagine any province refusing to accept from this dominion five million dollars a year, for example, to be expended on health? Can you conceive for a moment that any province of this dominion would refuse two million dollars a year to be expended on education? Why, two million and five million a year would be small change in the light of four billion dollars.

The British North America Act gave the dominion government power to create money. It gave this government absolute authority over banking and currency, and in giving this government control over currency it gave it the greatest single power that could possibly be conferred upon any government. What has the government done with that power? Has it used it? Never once in the long history of this dominion has it consistently done so; anything but that. Strangely enough, since he made those speeches out in western Canada about currency and credit in terms of public need, the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) has never even skated near that danger spot. Yet there lies the secret of obtaining maximum cooperation from all the provinces