

The Budget—Mr. C. Cameron

should take another look at the policies which have created this longest unprecedented spell of economic expansion.

May I call it one o'clock, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: I understand that the hon. member has three minutes only left for his speech. I wonder whether hon. members would wish the hon. member to complete his speech?

Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): I plan to move a subamendment, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It being one o'clock, pursuant to the provisions of the resolution adopted in this house on January 21 I do now leave the chair.

At one o'clock the house took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The house resumed at 2.30 p.m.

Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): As I said before the luncheon recess, Mr. Speaker, I propose to move a subamendment to the amendment placed before the house by the official opposition. I do so now. I move, seconded by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles):

That the amendment be amended by changing the period at the end thereof to a comma, and by adding immediately thereafter the following words:

"and to meet the needs of taxpayers by changing the income tax structure so that single persons up to \$1500 and married persons up to \$3000 will not be required to pay income tax, or to meet the needs of Canadians whose incomes are below the income tax exemption levels by providing a guaranteed annual income."

The problem to which the subamendment calls attention is connected closely with what I was saying earlier in the debate. It is further proof of the inability of an unplanned market economy to distribute the fruits of expansion. Not only are we unable to distribute the fruits of our production but we place a levy on those in our society who can least afford to contribute to the operation of our economy.

I was speaking earlier of the curious manner in which the Minister of Finance had dismissed the 365,000 unemployed by making no mention of them and by suggesting at the same time that we had nearly full employment of all our resources. I suggest this is a situation which will continue to get worse. There can be no doubt that if those presently

unemployed, as appears to be the case, are unfit to perform a productive function in our society, the level of unfitness will continue to rise in line with the technological development which is taking place today, and more and more people will find themselves in this category of being unused and unuseful members of our society.

The level of usefulness, if I can use that term, is bound to climb and much more drastic steps will be required to cope with the situation than either the minister or the government have indicated up to the present. This is one of the big paradoxes of our present method of operating our society. It is the dilemma of the unplanned market economy that not only does it fail to distribute the fruits of production in an equitable manner but that it is similarly unable to allocate resources in a socially desirable way, since the only consideration affecting the allocation of those resources is that of profit. The curious thing is that the richer we become, the more quickly we approach the full use of our economic, natural and human resources, the more difficult it is for us to make sure that those who need it most are able to share in the new wealth production. This, I submit, will always be the case as long as we continue to operate on an unplanned market economic basis.

I believe the almost obsessive concern with the rate of economic growth is actually an escape mechanism to enable us to avoid this problem of equitable distribution. It stems from a social philosophy which regards organized society as merely a productive and consumptive machine and human beings as being merely an attachment to that machine.

It is true we must have growth in order to keep pace with the rising population. But it may very well be that a better allocation of our resources and a better distribution of the fruits of our society would be sufficient to provide us with decent and satisfactory lives instead of our present course which is a mad scramble to use up resources, destroy our environment, exploit the capacities of human beings and keep the machine going at any cost.

We are confronted today with a foretaste of what will be done to us in more acute form by the automation and cybernation which awaits us. The time is fast approaching when we shall be obliged to take a hard look at the philosophy of human purpose which we now have, and at the philosophy of organizing