

During the campaign we were suggesting a compensated retail discount of 20 per cent. When you buy a \$100 item after, of course, an agreement has been passed between the retailers and the federal government, you are assured of a 20 per cent discount. The retailers are at liberty to enter into this agreement or not. But once they have endorsed it they are committed not to increase their prices and to receive the compensated discount from the government. Then, on a \$100 item the retailer would apply the \$20 discount, the consumer would pay only \$80 and the \$20 difference would be paid by the federal government.

This government grant would be much more significant than those paid to major companies because it would enable industries to distribute their production and hire workers. Thus through an agreement between the retailers and the government we could fight non only inflation but also unemployment.

This compensated discount is an integral part of the social credit theory. This theory respects private enterprise and individual initiative. We are all for helping individuals give the best of themselves to develop their country. Contrary to socialism under which government should grab everything, we Cr ditistes say: Give more and more freedom to private enterprise to allow it to develop because initiative is private. If you cast everybody in the same mould you turn them into a herd as do certain European and Asiatic Communist countries. That is not the kind of system we want in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, these three points have served my colleagues from the Social Credit Party during the whole election campaign. We did not waste our time trying to throw discredit on any given party; we have acted objectively and in this House, my colleagues and myself will continue to be objective. We want to put an end to this sense of divisiveness in Canada; the remedy which will promote a better understanding and a better cooperation and the best cooperation is still the economic reform, because our crucial problem, which has to be solved as soon as possible, is the economic problem. We must put the economy in the human being's service.

As Pope Pius XI used to say in 1931, that is 42 years ago: the economic goal will be fully achieved and will reach its real end only when it provides all of us with the part of assets that nature and industry are able to provide, and that part has to be sufficient to enable each of us to be well off.

It is to ensure this decent comfort that we are working seriously, objectively and positively. I call upon all hon. members of this House, whatever party they may be with, to cooperate and not think only in terms of defeating the government and preparing the next election but to give Canadians a regime which would respect the human being, a regime which we allow them to become satisfied human beings in a country as rich as ours.

As I have said earlier, Mr. Speaker, the Cr ditistes will continue to make objective suggestions. We will not play games deciding whether or not the government should be overthrown.

I am telling you, formally and quite sincerely, that when the government introduces a piece of legislation, if it is beneficial to the Canadian people as a whole, we shall

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support it; otherwise, we shall fight it, no matter whether this should bring about elections or not. We have no ties, we are free, even though we have been ignored since the last election. I am saying that for the information of those who might not know it.

Based on the media, one might swear that only three political parties now exist in the House: the Grits, the Tories and the New Democrats. The others are of no consequence. Oblivion sets in. However, we enjoy the consolidation and the satisfaction of not being forgotten, in due course, outside the House of Commons.

Mr. Speaker, this afternoon, the Prime Minister seemed in an excellent mood to seriously study the proposals put forward by the Official Opposition or the other parties.

Therefore, I hope, as I said before, that the Canadian economy may appropriately serve the Canadian people.

[English]

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, I think we were all surprised to find that the leader of the Social Credit Party (Mr. Caouette) did not introduce an amendment. Judging from the election campaign platform of the Social Credit Party, the government would have been hard-pressed not to vote in favour of it as they did in 1963. The guaranteed minimum wage, the guaranteed annual income that they urged so loudly during their campaign, failed to materialize in the speech of the leader of the Social Credit Party (Mr. Caouette).

• (2120)

My first comments are directed to the remarks of the leader of the NDP (Mr. Lewis). I took exception when he said—I think I quote him pretty accurately—that there was nothing in the record of the Conservative party, whether in majority or in minority, and therefore nothing in the record of the leader of this party, that would merit greater confidence than in those opposite. It seems to me he is overlooking a rather impressive record of social legislation that was enacted during the years 1957 to 1963 and which his party not only voted for but lauded at the time.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Nielsen: I speak of the progress that was made in on-the-job training, the progressive legislation that was passed under the then minister of labour, the former member for Ontario, the setting up of vocational schools across the country, improvements made in the unemployment insurance legislation and many others of which he is well aware. He is trying to duck the legitimate accusation that he is in bed with the Liberals as is, it seems, another party in the House. It sounds almost like the story of Bob and Carol and Ted and Alice. Only one of the parties, namely the official opposition, fails to join that common bed.

The leader of this party has made a very sensible suggestion to the government, which I do not think the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) will accept and which I believe the NDP will not accept either, because I think they are afraid to accept it; and judging by the conduct of the leader of the Cr ditiste party they, too, will reject it.