

The hon. minister was serious when he cited the Lord's words: In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread. He forgot that at the same time, God created man in his own image to make him resort mostly to his intelligence. That is what man did. He used his intelligence to find out how to make natural elements work for him: water, wind and everything that God had created, in order to ease his physical tasks, in other words the work he had to do as an animal since animals are not intelligent. Our good Lord permitted that. Man wanted to adjust to nature's design.

At one time, man refused to make use of his intelligence to control a financial system that does not correspond to the needs in 1971.

Man is caught in a vice, a victim of his own inventions, because to this day governments have always considered the financial system a master and not a servant. That is the problem!

Mr. Bourassa, premier of Quebec—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I hesitate to interrupt the hon. member, but I must remind him that his time has expired. He may not continue without the unanimous agreement of the House. Is there unanimous agreement?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): I thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your kindness and also thank my colleagues. I shall try to condense as briefly as possible the main ideas I wanted to develop in the course of this debate.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member will allow me to point out that several members wish to speak before the closing of the debate and I believe it would be fair on his part to limit his comment as much as possible.

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Very well, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to say that the premier of Quebec Mr. Bourassa made a great discovery as recorded in *The Gazette* of January 15, 1971, by Richard Cléroux. I quote the premier's statement as reported: "The unemployment in Quebec is due to the postwar wave of births." It is extraordinary! Due to the great number of young people born shortly after the war and now reaching the employment market. According to Mr. Bourassa, that is the main reason for the high rate of unemployment in Quebec.

According to Mr. Bourassa, the birth-control pill came too late. If we were less numerous in Quebec or Canada, the problem would be solved. But at the same time, Mr. Bourassa, his party and his economists, say that the population should be increased through immigration to insure Canada's prosperity. There is nothing to understand.

The previous week, Mr. Bourassa had said that the high rate of unemployment stemmed from the fact that we were living in North America and that we were dependent upon the United States. Finally, he confirmed

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what many people say: that we mortgage our future to the U.S., that we promote there the actual credit, the nation's credit.

Before concluding my remarks, Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a suggestion in order to improve the present situation. In my view, eliminating the 11 per cent tax on building materials would greatly contribute to solve this problem, because it would give a boost to the building trade.

Secondly, I would invite the Prime Minister to read carefully the letter he received in the first days of January, from the mother superior of a religious congregation who, on New Year's day sat at her desk to meditate on the serious problems concerning agriculture and unemployment. This letter contains some most interesting suggestions that deserve to be read and pondered over by all hon. members.

I had intended to read this letter, but since my time is rather limited, I shall close my remarks by thanking all hon. members for granting me some extra time.

Mr. Speaker: The Minister of Finance.

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question to—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member for Joliette (Mr. La Salle) wishes to ask a question to the hon. member who has just sat down. I suggest, however, that, because of lack of time, we should allow hon. members who intend to take part in the debate, to do so immediately.

Mr. La Salle: Mr. Speaker, my question is a very brief one. I would like to ask the hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Lambert)—

Mr. Speaker: Order. As the hon. member's time has already expired, that question can be asked only with the unanimous consent of the House. Now, as this consent does not appear to have been granted, the Chair must recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Martial Asselin (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, has the House been asked to allow the hon. member for Joliette to ask his question?

Mr. Speaker: The Minister of Finance.

● (3:20 p.m.)

[*English*]

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to speak further about the state of our economy during this renewal of the debate on the budget which I introduced in the House on the night of December 3.

In discussing our economy, it is essential to keep our primary objective as a nation foremost in mind. As I pointed out in my budget address, that objective is a