

It is now more than six months since the war ended. The speech from the throne points out the conditions of hunger, privation and suffering for millions which are following in the wake of those six tragic years of human experience. All our hearts, I am sure, bleed for the sufferers in the various countries throughout the world. The most pressing world need to-day seems to be for food for the people who face serious shortages or who indeed face conditions of actual famine. If the need is to be met; if human suffering is to be cut to a minimum, then Canada's duty seems quite clear. My group will join in any effort to see that the suffering is cut to the absolute minimum. The flood-gates of production must be opened wide. They should have been opened wide months ago. Now our reserves of food-stuffs are gone. Any one with any gumption at all could see the danger inherent in restricting production, as we did in connection with wheat some time ago simply because our existing storage facilities were taxed to the limit and were not sufficient to take care of more wheat. At that time a few of us said that in view of the potential world tragedy it would be a criminal act against humanity to curtail wheat production, as was being advocated. We suggested the construction of adequate storage facilities to handle all the wheat the Canadian farmers wanted to produce at that time. Needless to say we were looked upon as blithering idiots, and wheat production was restricted. Then the world surplus vanished overnight, and now men, women and children must die of hunger. I say the Liberal government must take its share of responsibility for this tragic condition in the world.

I have been surprised that though each week the shortage of necessary commodities has been growing more acute, little has been done by the government, at least in the way of national organization to stop, the decline and increase the flow of wanted goods and services from the farm, the sea, the mine and factory to meet the tremendous demand that has developed both in Canada and in foreign markets. It is true that the other day the Prime Minister announced his nine-point programme for increasing production in order to meet the shortage of supplies; but in recent months I have noticed that luxury goods have been far easier to obtain than the plain, ordinary necessities of life. What does this indicate, Mr. Speaker, if not a woeful lack of experience and practical knowledge on the part of the legion of controllers and bureaucrats who have become the most serious handicap to productive industry in our country? What Canadians want, in common with the other peoples of the world, are the plain, or-

dinary necessities of life, not the luxuries; and it seems to me every thinking man can see that the situation is so serious that nothing but an all-out effort to increase the production of foodstuffs and ordinary civilian goods like rubber footwear, socks, shirts, nylons, underwear, bath tubs, houses, washing machines, automobiles and radios will even begin to prevent tragic results.

The whole Canadian scene continues to be overshadowed by the spectre of inflation. Abundant production and the successful distribution of ordinary consumer goods is the only defence against inflation; yet the government persists in a policy of drifting along, afraid to take bold and effective action to remove the bottlenecks and the discouragements that have dulled incentive and checked productive capacity from one end of this country to the other. For instance, what has the government done about taxation? The system of punitive expropriation followed by this government has contributed more than anything else to the discouragement of productive enterprise. Endless and overlapping regulations, rulings and decisions continue to confuse and exasperate the people, and little is being done by the managers of our financial affairs in this country to remedy the situation and free Canadian enterprise from this millstone which hangs about its neck.

Social Crediters everywhere, in common with all progressive and sound thinkers, urge the government to begin an immediate and progressive downward revision of taxation. Those taxes that bedevil and restrict production should be revised at once in order to provide incentive to industry to step up its output and restore confidence once more. And coincidentally with the increase in production of consumer goods the personal income tax schedules must be revamped to exempt from taxation the incomes of all Canadians up to \$2,000 per year. We are prepared, Mr. Speaker, to organize a fight to see that this is done at the earliest possible moment, and we are simply serving notice of that fight. Nothing would do more to rejuvenate the workers and farmers of Canada and to induce an all-out productive effort than the lightening of the taxation burden upon them, especially the burden of income tax. Finally, Mr. Speaker, the appointment of a tax commission to investigate, simplify and revise our whole system of taxation is long overdue. The people of Canada should unite in demanding these things. They can and must be done.

Another old man of the sea which has been dragging down industry and slowing our reconversion is the government's price policy. I