

before the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That is hardly a point of order. If the hon. member is asking a question and we must assume it is one which might have been asked during the question period, it can now be asked only with the consent of the House.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member will appreciate that he is not on a point of order. Orders of the day.

[Translation]

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY S.O. 58—FAILURE OF GOVERNMENT TO APPLY SOCIAL CREDIT MONETARY POLICY

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse) moved:

That this House regrets that the government has not seen fit to apply Social Credit monetary policy.

Mr. Speaker, it is with the greatest pleasure that I have the honour to move the censure motion of the Ralliement Cr ditiste now before the House, and which reads as follows:

That this House regrets that the government has not seen fit to apply Social Credit monetary policy.

As we move this motion, we have no intention of wasting the time of the House, and we do not feel that we are. During the present session or during the preceding ones, the House was not called upon to discuss bills designed to put an end to the present economic and financial disorder.

Unfortunately the government refused to leave the beaten path and preferred to rely on traditional policies which give no results.

The government was satisfied with offering measures which, until now, failed everywhere else in the world. If the economic situation is so mixed up at present in Canada, inflation is to blame; if there is unemployment at the same time, the Ralliement cr ditiste is certainly not to blame, it is not because the Social Credit monetary proposals were put into effect. On the contrary, it is because conventional policies once again show their failure. Once again we renew our attempt because we want to awaken the members of the government and of other parties to the policies we promote and to the means we would use if we were sitting in place of the present government.

Before coming to the heart of the matter and proving the failure of the government policy and the reasons for its failure, I should like to call attention to the remarks of those who claim that the failure of Social Credit is a foregone conclusion, that it has been judged, and that economists are content to grant it divided attention. That is precisely the case, Mr. Speaker: Social Credit has been

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judged and condemned without a fair trial. Those who state its policy are listened to only absent-mindedly. That is the truth of the matter.

With regard to what economists think of it, here is what one of them has to say. Mr. Hutchison, professor of political economy at Birmingham University, wrote this in a book published in London in 1964.

The study deals with the role of the judgments passed by economists on its value, and on the narrow-mindedness they reveal in these judgments, either because of the ideologies they have espoused, their political or social commitments, the selection of biased facts, unverified propositions and finally because of their differences as to the means to reach the ends. I quote from Mr. Hutchison:

If sciences—i.e. positive sciences—follow a straight line, economic sciences follow a spiral. With positive sciences, discoveries add to knowledge. When new truths are revealed past errors are rejected into oblivion. But with economics, we are going around in circles: every generation discovers the same errors as fast as it absorbs new ideas. The reason may lie not in economics themselves but with economists. When young we—the economists—take up theoretical positions and we spend the rest of our lives selecting facts to confirm them.

Thus speaks a modern economist about the so-called economic sciences.

Economics are prejudiced, biased, they spend their time digging up facts, disclosing some, hiding others, in order to preserve their status in the universities, get their degrees and maintain their own prestige.

After this digression, I come back to the motion read a few minutes ago to show that Social Credit monetary proposals would bring satisfactory solutions to our economic problems.

What are those problems? Judging from the crest-fallen appearance of government members, they have a great number of problems but no solutions. This is why they are sad, cheerless and have such mournful faces.

Obviously, we are not going to enumerate all those problems. It would be too long, too boring, and I have no desire to rub it in. But still, some of them seem to take it more seriously than others and they ask for special attention and they may even require the members of the government to undertake research work to solicit opinions, to seek advice, as we heard it said the other day by the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson) concerning his white paper on taxation.

• (3:30 p.m.)

First of all, we must face the problems of inflation, and of price increases. The government says that inflation no longer prevails and that our economy must be expanded. Still, this is surely not the opinion of the Chairman of the Economic Council of Canada who claims that inflation is still prevailing, and who has recently been critical of the government for its attempts at letting loose the economy with the means at its disposal. This is also not the opinion of the officials of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics who have just disclosed that in February 1971, the increase in prices has not stopped and the general consumer price index has gone up by .5 in February 1971.