

Regional Development

with local initiatives programs, with new plans for industrial development.

The minister had inquiries made and found that there were regional disparities in the country and that there were many parts of the country where it was almost impossible to establish industries, because of the level of poverty. But all those programs that the minister has created to develop industry have not prevented poverty, the running into debt nor the taxes and surtaxes which are draining everybody's pocketbook and are making it impossible for anyone to accumulate investment capital.

We are forced then, in order to accomplish something, to go into debt. In order to take advantage of the programs started by the minister, to obtain \$20,000, \$25,000 or \$33,000, manufacturers have to come up with \$100,000. This liability is an enormous burden for them. The large reimbursements necessary are taxable at all levels of government.

These taxes, as I said earlier, amount to more than 50 per cent. A good number of manufacturers have been helped by the department's programs, but they will not be able to survive despite it all. They will be forced to declare bankruptcy because of the policy which gives with one hand and takes twice as much with the other.

We have spent millions of dollars in grants to manufacturers who are bound to fail eventually because they are unable to make ends meet.

I think that the problem is of an economic nature, and as long as we do not decide to settle it once and for all we will experience again the plague that is afflicting us now and we will have only foreign capital for our development.

I have just learned today that, in my riding, there is a furniture factory which operates with great difficulty. It does sell its furniture, but cannot get paid because 50 per cent of the people are near bankrupt. If the economy were sound and balanced, the manufacturer could sell his products. An American firm has just offered \$250,000 for this factory. Once again, another industry will pass into American hands, even though this is but a small plant employing only 30 people.

It is our economy which is sick. One can always blame this government, but what solutions are being proposed? What are the causes of all these evils? Let us get at the real causes to cure this serious disease which afflicts us.

Our wish is to see Canadians gain control over their economy, their policy-making. Since the end of the last war, the awe-inspiring progress of this country and firms, Canadian as well as foreign, has not prevented malnutrition, misery, poverty and economic insecurity from setting here.

Economic stability cannot be generated by imbalance. Inflation, unemployment, poverty are economic and mathematical problems requiring economic and mathematical solutions.

National unity is not only a matter of language or culture; it is also and above all an economic issue. It is almost impossible for Canadians to own their industries or their inheritance because land and school taxes are now so burdensome that they amount to forfeiture of private

[Mr. Latulippe.]

ownership to the state and prevent most Canadians from owning their industries in security, including the house in which they live.

And this feature of our economy leads us directly to socialism, which is contrary to man's most elementary right to own undertakings and even a permanent home. Canadians are no longer able to own their own home. A little house costs four or five times what it should. Indeed, a \$10,000 home is sold from \$25,000 to \$30,000 on account of interest charges. Until such time as we take the necessary steps to check further increases in property taxes, which contribute to the rise of the cost of living, we will have only destitute people who live from day to day, without any hope or possibility of becoming homeowners.

That is why the Cr ditistes are asking that property taxes be removed or progressively reduced. They are also asking that the Bank of Canada provide interest-free loans to municipalities, school boards, provinces, to improve public services, which would push taxes down.

We find that unfortunately the big eat the small, since many are bemoaning in shameful abjection. Manufacturers and individuals go bankrupt, farmers lose their farms, all of it without any other justification than the lack of money. The public lives in hardship, and governments in bondage. We must stop suffering from want when there is in the country everything needed to ensure affluence in each home.

So, instead of managing Canada, governments have become collectors of taxes of all kinds, and a big part of those taxes, the most sacred part, which must not be talked about is precisely the interest on the public debt. Few rise to protest against the interest paid on public finance.

• (1410)

So, Mr. Speaker, as long as we cannot finance our public bodies with money that is borrowed interest-free or at a low rate of interest, we will always be in the red; never will the Canadian economy know stability. We will know nothing but the disappointments, the discontent we now know. To solve the problem, we are moving towards dictatorship, and the governments have to step in with money they take away from the people who have too little as it is.

When the minister grants subsidies to certain industries, to allow them to expand or continue their operations, he takes it away from the ratepayers who do not have enough even now. And so, money is taken from one place where there is a lack of it and put into another where there is a shortage, in fact where there will never be enough money. So, that does not solve the problem.

When we want to develop new industries, new capital is needed and it rests with the government and members of Parliament to settle that problem. If we had new capital to make new investments and if taxpayers were free to make some savings, they would develop the country and the government would not have to meddle everywhere as it is doing at the present time. The government could show some leadership in Canada instead of taking over the assets of our citizens or compelling Canadians to mortgage their property and borrow money to do something.