

at this session to prevent retroactive taxation of cooperative patronage dividends. I stand for absolute fairness in distributing the load of taxes that are necessary, but I feel that to make the recommendations of the McDougall commission retroactive in any respect would be a tremendous injustice. My colleagues will deal with this matter at greater length as we go along.

The second and last thing is this. People who have been in the habit of laughing at what they so frequently called the social credit "funny money" system, are now having the tables turned. Every time a social creditor listens to a tale of economic woe, hears predictions as to the oncoming depression, has someone complain to him about taxation or debt, or is asked to donate to the old man's home; or if he hears the prevailing reports of starving millions in other parts of the world and at the same time thinks of the wheat the farmers in recent years were paid not to produce, invariably the retort is, "So that is how your funny money system works, is it?" Social creditors face the future confident that when the people awaken to the true facts they will apply social credit principles to the economy of Canada and help bring abundant happiness, freedom and peace to all men.

Mr. GORDON B. ISNOR (Halifax): Mr. Speaker, I do not propose to follow the reasoning of the leader of the Social Credit group (Mr. Low).

Mr. BLACKMORE: A good thing; you do not because you could not do it.

Mr. ISNOR: Nor do I, as a rule, interrupt as they so often do. I feel, however, that I should like to compliment the leader of that group on the definite manner in which he stated his position with regard to the dominion-provincial proposals. I think I can go farther and say I feel that I am in accord with the thoughts he expressed. I was sorry and a little disappointed that he did not enlarge on his views with regard to the report of the McDougall commission. That is a question with which the Minister of Finance (Mr. Ilsley) dealt in a sincere manner and placed before the people without any thought of favouritism to any particular group. I trust, as the leader of the Social Credit group said, other members of that party will, later on, more definitely express their views in respect to this proposal.

I do not intend, either, to follow the reasoning of the acting leader of the C.C.F. party, the hon. member for Vancouver East (Mr. MacInnis), in his presentation this afternoon. His group differ definitely with this party in regard to public ownership and private enter-

prise. While they stand for public ownership in the broadest possible terms, in a socialistic manner, I stand for free enterprise because I believe that if we are to produce and continue the prosperity Canada is enjoying at present, it must be through the enterprise and initiative of the individual.

I am more concerned with what was said by the financial critic of the opposition than with the remarks of any other speaker who might take part in this debate; and I imagine that is also the case with the people of Canada. Since the evening of Thursday, June 27, when the Minister of Finance presented his budget, the people have been looking forward to what would be said by the official opposition. Naturally they expected criticism, but I believe they also thought they would be offered some solution for our difficulties, some recommendations of a constructive nature, which might make the picture brighter than it appears to them at the moment. I was disappointed, and I believe that was the feeling throughout the house this afternoon. In fact, as I watched hon. members opposite. I thought I could discern signs of keen disappointment on their part in the remarks of the financial critic, and I believe the same feeling existed in the galleries of this chamber. I make that statement in all sincerity; and I believe that if hon. members of the opposition were to give an honest opinion they would say that was right.

What did the financial critic say? He dealt with the lack of any benefit to the taxpayers of Canada, and then in his opening remarks went on to make the astounding statement that no one would profit from any deductions until they made up their income tax returns for 1948. Surely he could not have thought of what he was saying when he made that statement. I have every respect for the high position this hon. gentleman holds in financial circles in this country, but perhaps because of the high position he occupies he has lost touch with the common people, the man on the street, the ordinary wage-earner.

Mr. ROSS (Souris): Don't ever fool yourself.

Mr. ISNOR: I am expressing that as a possibility, from the expressions and observations of the financial critic of the hon. gentleman's party. Hon. members will recall what he said this afternoon, that no one would benefit during 1947. I say to the house that a very large number of taxpayers at present paying income tax will, immediately, in 1947, be struck off the so-called taxpayer's list. That number runs 550,000 to 600,000.

As I said a minute ago, this will greatly help the low-bracket employee, wage-earner and worker. I am in close touch with the small