

Income Tax Act

Mr. Speaker, I quote what the Right Honourable William Lyon Mackenzie King said in August 1935, and this, for the information of the hon. member for Laurier (Mr. Leblanc) since he finds Social Credit so funny.

[English]

Once a nation parts with the control of its currency and credit, it matters not who makes the nation's laws. Usury, once in control will wreck any nation.

[Translation]

Let us see if the situation is not exactly the same as the one we find ourselves in with this Bill C-259.

An hon. Member: What date?

Mr. Caouette: In August 1935.

[English]

Until the control of the issue of currency and credit is restored to government, and recognized as its most conspicuous and sacred responsibility, all talk of the sovereignty of parliament and democracy is idle and futile.

• (9:10 p.m.)

[Translation]

A former Prime Minister of Canada said that.

An hon. Member: He is dead.

Mr. Caouette: He is dead. My hon. friend will die one day, Mr. Speaker.

An hon. Member: Everyone has to die.

Mr. Caouette: But one thing is true: that Prime Minister was right. And today, we believe that it is high time to proceed with a reform in depth, not a fictitious one, like this one, which is meant to take away from those who have and to give to those who have not. This is the objective of Bill C-259. The rich will benefit from exemptions, the poor will gain very little and the middle man will pay everything.

Mr. Speaker, that is exactly what we are told by accountants and businessmen. Some accountants in western Canada say frankly: "It's pure confiscation of private property." For the hon. member's information, those are not Cr ditiste, but liberal or conservative accountants, and they all say the same thing.

Mr. Speaker, some time ago I suggested to the House the establishment of a social security program using the services of our financial institutions, particularly the Bank of Canada. Some people said it would be ridiculous to change the whole social security system which exists in Canada at present. No figures were given at the time. But we now have figures to show; we did the necessary research to get the official figures.

The federal government spends \$7,722,661,607 every year on social security in Canada. Crown corporations spend \$80,025,837 on social security. The total expenses of all Canadian provinces amount to \$6,814,500,000, and those of municipalities, to \$286 million—for a grand total of \$14,903,249,444. That is what we pay at present in Canada for social security.

My colleagues and I urged that a single social security plan be set up for all Canada instead of 25 different schemes. We must set up a plan applying to every Canadi-

[Mr. Caouette.]

an earning less than \$15,000 a year because we consider that those earning that much a year have security! We have proposed giving, from age 18, \$1,500 to all single people and \$2,500 to married couples and an extra \$250 for each child up to the sixth and up to a maximum of \$4,000.

An hon. Member: For hon. members too?

Mr. Caouette: Not for hon. members, because their annual income exceeds \$15,000.

Then, Mr. Speaker, we would cover students, people who are handicapped or disabled, who would, if they are alone, receive \$1,500 a year, which is \$125 a month, instead of \$80, \$75 or \$65 as is now the case.

When students 18 to 23 years of age would reach the end of their studies, they would receive \$125 a month. A family of four would get \$3,000 a year. Of course, if they could make some money besides their social security, they would be entitled to it, without being penalized or deprived of the guaranteed social security up to \$4,000 a year.

Mr. Speaker, such a system would cost less than the present one, because we now make all kinds of expenditures without any reason and those who need it most do not get anything. The most needy are given as little as possible and we find thousands of examples throughout the country. This very day, welfare recipients from Montreal were in Parliament to complain about the lack of attention we give them. Try as we may tell them that this is the responsibility of the province of Quebec, Quebecers know that 50 per cent of welfare allowances come from Ottawa. Mr. Speaker, under that program, \$200 a month would be paid everyone at age 60, and \$150 a month to the spouse. That means that a married couple of 60 or more would receive \$350 a month. I dare any member to tell me that \$350 a month for old people or \$125 a month for students, that is roughly \$1,500 a year, is too much.

When I suggested the implementation of that program, I asked hon. members to study it seriously, not to win votes in the next elections but to achieve a just society in Canada. I urge, in all sincerity, the Liberals in power to adopt that social security program for the Canadian people as a whole. If they do so, I promise to vote for the present government in the next elections. It is as simple as that!

Mr. B chard: Mr. Speaker, would the hon. member allow me a question?

Mr. Caouette: Of course.

Mr. B chard: Mr. Speaker, if the policy outlined for the second or third time by the hon. member for T miscamingue were implemented by the Liberal party, would he go back to their ranks?

Mr. Caouette: This would mean that the Liberal party is again becoming truly Liberal. And then, I have not—

Mr. Leblanc (Laurier): Mr. Speaker—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Honey): The hon. member for Laurier.