

*Use of Bank of Canada to Ease Tax Burden*

high prestige to which he is entitled, we went along with that claim related to the respect due to the human being.

But this time, it is impossible to ask the taxpayer what he is unable to give.

Property owners are hard pressed, tenants have created a league which will make a row, big trade and industry are constantly protesting against tax increases—all those taxes which knock them left and right—in short, there is no more room and nothing goes.

Mr. Speaker, we are living in a rich country and if we consider that in 1944, national production amounted only to \$11,400 million and reached \$68 billion in 1968, it means that national production has increased six-fold. Faced with so much wealth, our industrialist are not the only ones to be concerned, because all classes of society are also worried. People are realizing that they are missing something.

Farmers, who were long considered to be kings of the earth, wonder today how much longer they will be able to continue their payments to the Farm Credit Corporation.

Workers wonder how their employer will be able to keep them on the payroll, because to hire labour, one must have a business, an undertaking which is reasonably prosperous. At present businesses are not only in difficulty, but they are going bankrupt, and I quote an article published in *Le Devoir* of March 14, 1969:

More bankruptcies in January last... The number of bankruptcies sharply increased in January to 176 or more than in any preceding month since March 1968, report Dun and Bradstreet.

—not only did they increase in number in January, but the liabilities also rose to \$12.6 million compared to \$7.0 million in December.

Retail trade, construction and services were mostly affected by the greater number of bankruptcies between December and January and in comparison with a year earlier.

Total liabilities in the month of January increased.

The article goes on to say:

For retail trade and construction, it was a ten-month record, while the number for services tripled compared to December and reached a 15-month peak.

● (9:00 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker, in matters of bankruptcies, we are now using sport terminology. In *Le Devoir* of Friday, March 4, it is said that the record number of bankruptcies in January was a record.

Mr. Speaker, everybody knows that fewer employers mean more unemployed. In Quebec

[Mr. Godin.]

alone, compared with the last two years, the number of people on welfare has increased by 40 per cent, and as a result of unemployment, the housing problem is getting more serious. Not only a tenant cannot choose his apartment because his income is insufficient, but even the owner is forced to sell against his will. In this connection, I shall quote an article published in *La Presse* on March 6, 1969 under the signature of Mr. Félix Corribeau, of Montréal. He said:

Anyone going through the streets of Montreal looking for a family dwelling finds nothing but signs reading: House for Sale. Events speak for themselves. The true problem lies with the owner.

The owner is alone responsible for everything: he has to pay the municipal school tax, to put up the money, to pay his mortgage insurance, to look after his house, his lot—

If this costs a lot from the city hall's viewpoint, this is true also for the small owner.

As far as one-family dwelling owners are concerned, it is even worse; they are being penalized because they do not have any tenant; their property is assessed at its full value; they alone have to foot the bill. Most of them finally have to sell their houses for less than the assessed price or the cost of tearing it down. The law gives you no alternative: you must pay or quit. No need to be jealous of that man since he lives in a "taxed jail" even though he had a higher ideal.

Mr. Speaker, whether they are owners or tenants, fathers and mothers alike are worried about what will be left to their children.

The young people attending school are concerned because they wonder what society will be able to offer them this spring. Once again they will be leaving our schools and joining the ranks of the unemployed. We are retraining the workers by giving them allowances, but in those hard times we are experiencing now, what will become of the young people already well-trained? For how long yet will the young people be able to remain honest?

In order to appease the French Canadian people and keep them quiet, in Quebec some glib talkers have been hired to warn them that they are simply being robbed by the English people. All they have to do is to secede from the English.

In order to quiet down the English-speaking people from Quebec, the Minister of Labour (Mr. Mackasey) was saying on Wednesday, January 29, that the uncertainty that loomed over Quebec's economy, was really due to the Union nationale and the Quebec Liberals. Therefore, all that is needed is a change of party, a new group of responsible people and the English-speaking people will be patient. For them and for the other races scattered all