

The Budget—Mr. Latulippe

important, the relationship between the region and the rest of the country. It would give careful scrutiny to the adjustment of national policy in respect of increased economic goals for the Atlantic part of Canada. Important contributions have already been made by the Duncan and White commissions.

After watching painfully the way in which the national government has failed to show interest and initiative in dealing with the Atlantic economy I believe the time has come to set up another royal commission, comprehensive and all-embracing so that we may look quickly and with some sense of urgency at a situation where in a great and prosperous country such as Canada that part of Canada where confederation began slips further and further back while the rest of the country gets ahead. I believe another royal commission might at least focus attention on this question and amass information impressive enough for the minister, at some time, to use. I commend such a suggestion to him and to the house.

[Translation]

Mr. Henri Latulippe (Compton-Frontenac): Mr. Speaker, I am glad of this opportunity to say a few words on the Budget speech and on the whole economic situation in Canada. We are told, according to this Budget speech, that Canada is prosperous, that prosperity is everywhere and that everything is running smoothly. Then, when things are going too well, restrictions are imposed to prevent further progress.

Mr. Speaker, we are told the economy is in fine shape—why then are there restrictions on credit and investments?

I wish I were strong and powerful enough to open the ears of the Minister of Finance and the other ministers, particularly those who are at the controls, and especially the Prime Minister, who is the one in charge of the present administration, the country and the people.

The Minister of Finance is at the controls of all the monetary, economic and political machinery concerning taxation, income tax and gains. It is up to him especially, as well as to the others, to analyse the revenues, expenditures and gains of citizens, families and institutions.

The minister knows very well, through experience, that our democratic and financial systems can no longer co-exist and that instead of democracy there is at the moment a dictatorship which prevents young and old, men

[Mr. Macquarrie.]

and women to live as they will. He should in fact understand that this is a real dictatorship exercised through the medium of hunger.

There is discontent and strikes everywhere in Canada; raises in salary are asked for as a solution in industry, in transport, by mailmen, professors, engineers, students and even by civil servants: there are strikes in just about every sector. Why are workers, the builders of the country, so dissatisfied? I put the question to the minister, but I shall answer for him. It is because the people have had enough of excessive policies for Canada, of rationing and credit restrictions of austerity programs, and of excessive taxes, inquiries, investigations, forms, dictatorship and yokes, and loss of freedom.

The people are not satisfied with the present system. There is general discontent in this country and throughout the world; there is fear, insecurity, useless deprivations; crises follow one another; on the one hand, large quantities of essential goods are lost and, on the other hand, half the population is deprived, Canadians are unemployed and live in slums.

One fact remains, Mr. Speaker, and it is that the present economic system does not operate properly and leads to credit restrictions, overtaxation, unemployment, misery and the inconsistency of deprivation in the midst of plenty.

• (5:00 p.m.)

The present system penalizes the workers who do their work well, by making them unemployed; it penalizes the producers who do well and who produce all we need but who are respectful of the masters of finance who are not doing their own job well.

Banks currently refuse to lend money at reasonable interest rates; they do not care about the government and government regulations even though the government guarantees the loans.

Do you want instances? Take the National Housing Act, with 5½ per cent interest guaranteed by the government. I do not know of a single bank that has made a single loan on these terms. You have industrial development assistance under which the government guarantees loans up to \$25,000; banks refuse to lend money at 5½ per cent with government endorsement, banks even refuse to lend on 6 per cent notes, but they will make family loans at 12 per cent.