

Canada Pension Plan

tions of Robert Theobald, a British economist, who is now adviser to the American government.

Mr. Theobald said that we are on the threshold of an era with demands as different from those of the previous industrial revolution as the exigencies of the industrial era were from those of the agricultural age."

Today, in Bill No. C-136 we are still thinking in terms of the agricultural age, or even in medieval terms.

Speaking of the consequences of automation and cybernetics, Robert Theobald stated:

—their consequences will be so deep and will happen so fast that full employment will be impossible.

And I am asking my friends of the New Democratic party to think about this:

—in other words, will the combined production system of machines and cybernetics be so effective that employers, governments in their capacity of private contractors, will prefer, from an economic point of view, to purchase or rent machines instead of hiring workers.

Mr. Speaker, we have come to that point and the government is taking steps to the contrary. We are doing away with the machine in order to hire workers under the winter works program. The pension plan provides also that a person has to work hard for 40 or 50 years of his life in order to receive a pittance at 65 or 70 years of age.

And Mr. Theobald continues:

—full employment will never be attained and even if it were, certain groups of people should have a guaranteed revenue: those who are too old or too young to work; those whose responsibilities prevent them from working, such as widows with children and young people in schools or universities.

Concerning minimum income, Mr. Theobald states—note that the suggestion does not come from Social Credit members but from an economist who does not suggest a monthly pension of \$50 or the distribution of misery among the poor people—that this minimum income should be \$1,000 per annum for each adult and \$600 for each child. That is what an economist suggests for the rehabilitation or the improvement of the economic situation in the United States.

With respect to a salary for students, Mr. Theobald said:

We must admit that the student already works at least as much as the factory worker. The time has come to introduce the new concept of a salary for students, possibly starting at the age of 14, with increases until students finish their university studies.

That is perhaps a revolution along the lines of the social legislation we must contemplate here in Canada.

Let them stop introducing bills which reduce or minimize the economic importance

[Mr. Caouette.]

in our country, bills which suggest absolutely nothing new, bills which tend only to levy taxes in order to distribute what is left after paying the administration costs. Millions of dollars, even billions are at stake and the people will get nothing out of it, because tremendous administrative costs will have to be paid to apply this pension plan under Bill No. C-136. Now, we are fed up with all that.

A while ago, I heard the previous speaker say that the government stated it needs social capital. Does the government not recognize that the Canadian worker also needs social capital? Do not the farmers, white collar workers, professional men, also need a personal capital, although it is not social nor supplied by society? Why, under the pretence that social capital is required for Canada, as I said a while ago, take away from one group, while trying to persuade them that we must act in this way to help another group?

Private enterprise is generally attacked, but Bill No. C-136 does not recognize it. It will be said that private enterprise and insurance companies exploit the public, etc. What difference is there between exploitation of the public by a private company and exploitation by a government which does not know where it is going with its pension plan?

Fantastic amounts are obtained in an attempt to alleviate poverty among the Canadian people. When these people are taxed less, they do not spend their time accumulating money in the banks or institutions here and there, or hiding money in the corners of their bedrooms and in basements or vaults. These people work, expand their industries, their private enterprise, and, often enough, they allow other private enterprises to appear here and there.

The government will keep this money from circulation among the population, by accumulating that money itself and trying to socialize us further, by all possible and imaginable means.

When I see bills like that, which spread hardship in Canada, I wonder why the government and the Minister of National Health and Welfare do not take into consideration the economic realities of our country? We are told—the economists, with statistical data in support of their case—that Canada's gross national product will be over \$46 billion this year, while the total national income will amount to about \$32 billion. Are the minister and the government not aware that Canada will be short \$14 billion in purchasing power? While the government prepares to levy more