

*Distribution of Goods and Services*

lieve that the hon. member for Témiscamingue (Mr. Caouette) will go down in history, and rightly so, for his well-known talent and probably because he is the only politician I know who has spent his life successfully repeating more or less the same speech.

That is a feat of which no politician has shown himself capable, and is very likely due to his personal qualities as a speaker. He is so colorful that we listen to him, even when we know beforehand everything he is going to say.

Naturally, when guilelessly or guilefully a man starts making capital of peoples misery, he soon knows the sweet taste of success. Whether he is a Socialist, a Communist or a Créditiste, when he addresses a crowd, a group of people who are hungry, of people who are poor and when he tells them: "They should solve your problem, give you more money," I know of no speaker with a modicum of talent who will not be applauded.

People applaud, and rightly so, because it is their way of expressing themselves, of making their problems known. And when these problems are publicly recognized, I think that in a democratic country that is a sound reaction.

But the hon. member for Témiscamingue and his group must not be led to think, because they are applauded when they denounce the present state of affairs, that people approve of their ideas; indeed, the same applause would probably be given to anyone, with totally different tenets, who would mouth the same strictures. Of course, we are not all economists. I am not, and neither is the member for Témiscamingue. Just by reading his speech, we can see that economics are not really up his alley and that he lacks the required technical knowledge.

I would imagine that it seems at first to make sense when you tell people: "You lack purchasing power, there are enough goods in Canada to satisfy everybody's need. Give us the money and we will get our economy going by buying goods". This seems like a simple solution and apparently it makes sense; but when the hon. member says that all which is produced could easily be bought if we gave money to the people, we might run into a snag.

For instance, we export about 90 per cent of our asbestos. If tomorrow, for any reason the world asbestos markets were closed I wonder how we could sell all our asbestos and who would use it.

I wonder who will consume the wheat surplus, if we have one. Will people be expected to eat bread even without being hungry, just because there is a surplus of wheat?

And if, tomorrow, there is no foreign market for the paper industry, even if our people were crammed with purchasing power, they will not be expected, of course, to purchase the surplus paper.

That is an over-simplified solution, as for the national debt which I would like to be lower, of course, as I would like less interest to be paid. But all that is at variance with what the hon. member said, because interest on the federal debt was paid to Canadians. It did not disappear. In fact, the hon. member does not care a rap about the truth concerning the federal tax.

Here are the facts: We pay the interest to Canadians. The problem about our economy is not really that of the purchasing power compared with the over-all production, but it is the distribution of wealth in our country, where some have more than their share while others have not enough; that is exactly the opposite of what the hon. member said, but obviously, he wants to have it both ways.

He says that we should give to everyone, but without taking away from the "haves", as if we had entered an endless course. Even if some people abuse and take more than their share, let us not touch them; that is consistent with his ideas. That is why he is generally against trade-unionism which precisely seeks to ensure a better distribution of wealth.

Anyway, I am not going to discuss the Social Credit theory, because if it had any sound basis, Mr. Speaker, it would have been adopted by at least one responsible political party in the world. I know there are missionaries, but, I also know that there are people who have not understood and who continue to fight for illusions unfortunately.

I once knew someone who was working at our place and who wore a piece of wire around his foot because he was sure it would cure his arthritis. He had faith, he was sincere, and it was very touching to see the confidence he had in this piece of wire. One day, I advised him to see a doctor, someone who knew about those things and since then, he is feeling much better. But it took longer than it should have to cure him. Of course, the miracle he was expecting did not happen, but maybe this was the only realistic means.