

It makes one wonder whether there should not be a ghetto for eastern farmers, at least if the government keeps on treating them as second class citizens and showing some interest in them only when the time comes to consider their profits for income tax purposes.

Mr. Speaker, Social Credit demands respect for human beings. A case in point is that farmers, who are the back bone of our economy, are not appreciated at their true worth through snobbery or because it is not profitable for high finance.

Mr. Speaker, the government is now beginning to take seriously the reforms advocated by the Social Credit for over 30 years. When the government starts to talk about a minimum guaranteed income, I am all for it as well as the party of which I have the honour to be a member. Even though only part of the population is concerned, it is a start, and the government deserves praise for thinking at last of some of the people. Soon the monetary system will be placed at the disposal of the people, it will no longer serve only the big financiers.

Then and only then will we speak of true democracy because although we now have parliamentary democracy we do not really know economic democracy. Economic democracy will be a fact only when all Canadians are shareholders in their country, just as it goes in private industry.

Consequently, Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Rimouski (Mr. Allard), the following sub-amendment:

That the main amendment be amended by deleting the words after "Your Excellency's advisers" and substituting therefor the following:

... did not introduce the social credit reforms required to guarantee a minimum annual income to all Canadians, for instance the old age pension at 60."

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member moved an amendment about which I have serious procedural doubts. But before ruling on the matter, I am willing to hear the comments, recommendations or advice of my hon. colleagues of the House. Here is the amendment:

That the main amendment be amended by deleting the words after "your Excellency's advisers" and substituting therefor the following:

... did not introduce the social credit reforms required to guarantee a minimum annual income to all Canadians, for instance the old age pension at 60.

The question before the House is therefore the following:

We respectfully affirm to Your Excellency that Your Excellency's advisers did not introduce the social credit reforms required to guarantee a minimum annual income—

To my mind, this is a new amendment and not a sub-amendment. As I said, I would be happy to hear the comments of hon. members to help me decide whether or not the proposed amendment is in order.

• (1750)

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, we moved a subamendment in order to bring something positive to the amendment moved by the Leader of the Official Opposition (Mr. Stanfield), which is practically meaningless. It is

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something purely negative, while our sub-amendment brings in at least something positive.

Mr. Speaker: Any further comments? I suspect that the hon. President of the Privy Council (Mr. MacEachen) is rising in order to suggest to the Chair that the amendment is out of order. Should he try to convince me that the motion is in order, I would be willing to listen to him. Otherwise, I am ready to make a ruling.

In my opinion, there is no doubt from a procedural view point that the hon. member's amendment raises an entirely new matter. It does not attempt to explain the substance of the amendment moved by the hon. Leader of the Official Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) but rather to substitute an entirely new proposal.

The hon. member's motion would have been in order as a main motion and not as a secondary motion appended to a motion already before the House. For this reason, I regret to say to the hon. member that his motion is not in order as a sub-amendment.

Mr. Arthur Portelance (Gamelin): Mr. Speaker, first of all, I should like to join with the other hon. members in congratulating Your Honour on your reelection as representative of the Stormont-Dundas constituency. I am sure that your constituents are as satisfied with your services and your ability to represent them for the fifth time in the House of Commons as are all the hon. members in finding that your reelection as Speaker was a unanimous decision. Your past experience, your sound judgment and your competence asserted during previous Parliaments fully justify your holding the Speaker's office.

I also wish to congratulate the hon. member for Halifax-East Hants (Mr. McCleave) for his appointment as chairman of the committee of the whole House. Such an important function will be occupied, I am convinced, by a man who deserves the confidence and the co-operation of all hon. members. The hon. member for Halifax-East Hants, to my knowledge, has always acted objectively, whether in the House of Commons or in committees, when speaking on behalf of his party.

Mr. Speaker, two other hon. members also deserve congratulations. I shall first congratulate the hon. member for Nipissing (Mr. Blais), the mover of the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, who acquainted us with his constituency in such a vivid fashion that I shall be only too happy to accept his invitation and visit his riding.

I also wish to offer my congratulations to the hon. member for Lachine (Mr. Blaker), the seconder of the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. He gave us the background of his constituency of Lachine. Although he did not mention the Lachine massacre, perhaps he could have referred to the massacre of October 30 last, when he gave a sound licking to his Progressive Conservative opponent.

Mr. Speaker, I also take pleasure in congratulating all the hon. members, both new ones and former ones, who have been elected to the House.

Mr. Speaker, the Speech from the Throne proposes several new measures, all equally important, whether it be in the social, economic, political or national unity fields. I