

• (4:10 p.m.)

It seems to me that some times Canadians become too preoccupied with their particular problems, and I should just like to mention four of them. Only a few years ago we were worried about the state of our national finances. That problem was tackled in a forthright fashion and has now been satisfactorily resolved.

At the moment a lot of people are worried about inflation, and some people are getting almost panicky about it. Certainly this is not a danger that can ever be ignored, but the minister has presented policies for dealing with it. If they are not successful we can assume, as I have said, that other supplementary measures will be promulgated. In other words, when something needs to be done, we should be prepared to act, not just sit around wringing our hands and crying about it. The minister has shown that he is quite capable of acting.

I should now like to mention another problem about which Canadians are concerned. For 100 years or more we have been worrying about the difficulty of holding our country together. In the last few years these worries have been increased. I believe we are getting closer to an appreciation of the changes in relationships that are needed to meet the changing conditions and the changing viewpoints of our times. I suggest that it is vitally important that French and English speaking Canadians try to understand each other better, be more appreciative and sympathetic of each other's gifts and aspirations and less critical of each other's shortcomings.

We should and must all work to reduce tensions, not exacerbate them. If we do, and if we approach this fundamental problem reasonably and with a determination to be fair, I believe we shall be successful and that Canada will not only hold together but will become much stronger in the process. Every hon. member of this house has a direct and personal responsibility in this matter. It is up to us, every one of us, to do everything within our power to promote unity and understanding. It is up to us—every one of us—not to do anything or say anything that would have the opposite effect.

We are still worried, and properly so I think, about the annual deficits on current account in our balance of payments. These deficits were reduced substantially in 1963 and 1964, but increased last year to about \$1,100 million. If nothing were done the deficit on current account this year

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would be considerably higher. This is a problem that we should face up to, and if we do so it also can be resolved.

One of our difficulties in this country is that so much of our industry is controlled abroad. We have gained a great deal in the past from foreign investment and the scientific, technological and managerial know-how that has come with it, and in many cases, the assurance of markets. This has helped to develop our economy faster than otherwise would have been possible.

But the trend to absentee control of Canadian resources and Canadian businesses has gone too far. This is related to our balance of payments difficulties, as the recent United States guide lines have made perfectly clear to everyone. I believe that we must take positive steps to reverse the trend toward ever increasing foreign control over the Canadian economy. I have views about how this could be accomplished, but this is not the time to put them forward. Apart from anything else, I have just finished writing a book, as some hon. members may know, and I do not want to scoop myself today.

Mr. Douglas: Let's have no commercials.

Mr. Gordon: All I wish to say about this subject now is that, while it is a problem—and I believe a serious problem—we can resolve it if, having understood its implications, we tackle it head on.

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, may I be permitted to ask the hon. gentleman a question? Who is publishing his book and at what price will it be sold?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Bell (Saint John-Albert): May I also ask whether it is fiction or history?

Mr. Gordon: Perhaps I may answer one question at a time. I can assure the hon. minister that he will receive an advance copy, free of charge.

Mr. Vincent: What about other members of parliament?

Mr. Gordon: That depends on which side of the house they are located, but I will be glad to send you a copy.

Mr. Diefenbaker: This is going to be a one-sided presentation.

Mr. Gordon: Mr. Speaker, it never occurred to me that the right hon. Leader of the