

Correspondence on Surcharges

which we were being placed by the technological changes. He made a man and a machine talk together. When the man was through building the machine, he addressed it in those words:

(Text):

Man: Now then! Let's get to work.

The Machine: But I don't need your work. Run away and play.

Man: But you need my money.

The Machine: On thinking it out, I do.

Man: Well, I can't get any money unless I work.

The Machine: Work, then.

Man: But you improve so quickly that there is less and less work for me to do.

The Machine: I'm sorry; I'll improve as slowly as possible.

Man: But it's your job to improve as quickly as possible, so that you can serve me better and better and make me freer and freer.

The Machine: You can't have it both ways.

Man: Then what are we to do?

The Machine: Don't worry; something will turn up.

Then a declaration of war is sounded without. We have been going through the same problem for the past century without really arriving at the solution. When the Social Crediters bring to Canada the real solutions, they are more often laughed at by those same orthodox economists who tell the whole nation that Social Credit policies are policies of funny money and that the problem we have understood for years and which the government is starting to understand, the solution to which we are putting forward, will never be solved by Social Credit policies.

(Translation):

Mr. Chairman, may I read an excerpt from a recent publication, dated May 10, 1962 and entitled "The Christian Doctrine of Wealth". That pamphlet enables us to realize that the more things change, the more they are the same. In fact, here is what it says on page 32:

(Text):

The problem therefore is not simply one of providing against old age, ill-health or temporary unemployment—essential though these safeguards will continue to be. We must visualize a situation when it will be impossible to provide "gainful" employment for a substantial and growing section of the population. We are of the opinion that it would be foolish to attempt to retard or reverse this tendency; rather should we look upon it as a challenge and an opportunity—a challenge to solve the economic, social and moral problems, and an opportunity to move on into these wide fields of human endeavour that can only be explored on a voluntary basis. The "evil" of unemployment resides in two things—poverty due to lack of access to the real wealth produced by the economic system and misuse of the leisure it provides. The first can be cured by a reformed monetary system—

It will be noted that this is not a Social Credit pamphlet:

[Mr. Chapdelaine.]

The first can be cured by a reformed monetary system, and the second—given the removal of the first—is the responsibility of the moral leaders of society, and of course of the individual himself.

(Translation):

And now, Mr. Chairman, some people other than the Social Crediters realize that the solution to the automation problem does not lie solely in the setting up of a commission to control unemployment, but also in that of an economic system which will enable the person who is replaced by a machine to develop freely and to improve his brains.

If God gave us brains to enable us, at a given time, to free ourselves from matter, I cannot imagine that people can be kept in such a frame of mind as to believe that one must necessarily work eight hours a day to be able to benefit from the products of machines.

If God gave us brains to enable us, at a given time, to come out of this frame of mind, it is up to us to use them and to use the means which will bring about a solution to this crucial problem, in short, the most important one we are now facing.

I think that this light that the government is beginning to throw on the problem should enable us to understand that the more automation will replace the individual, the worker, the more important it will be to place in his hands the purchasing power required to enable him to use the products of machines.

Mr. Chairman, it is the only way in which we can hope that the study that the government wants to make of the problems resulting from automation will enable us to come to a fair and definite solution, not a make-shift solution, but a solution that will bring a real remedy to that halting economy we have inherited from the old line parties since confederation.

(Text):

Mr. Matheson: Tonight we are discussing industrial change and manpower adjustment. We do not know if there is anything of real importance in this bill; we do not yet know what is intended, but the text should be that we are forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead. We are talking about Canada putting machines and men to work, instead of lagging behind as an industrial nation. Despite the optimistic things which the minister and others have been saying, we have been lagging behind on almost any fair assessment of our industrial growth. First, in these last five years our actual physical volume of manufacturing has been declining.