

*Economic Conditions*

We often hear about the right to live. Isn't it the basic right of each citizen of a country? And if the right to live is the basic right, then it is the prime responsibility of the central government of a country. Even before having the right to a job and a salary, before having the right to capital and interest, each citizen must first be alive and healthy, because a corpse can have neither work nor capital. But this right to live means a guaranteed personal income for each citizen, whether this guaranteed personal income is derived from earnings, from interest on capital or from his personal vital right directly paid to him by the federal government, the only one responsible for distributing money at all levels of our social life, financial, economic and political, in all the provinces of the country.

Mr. Speaker, after having established that inflation, unemployment and poverty result from the national economic imbalance for which the legislative powers of the central government are solely responsible under our Canadian constitution, it remains to demonstrate that the situation is not hopeless, that we still can be optimistic and that it would be possible and indeed very easy, especially in Canada, and in 1977, to restore an economic balance among the various classes of society through better tax distribution, in order to ensure the security and the development of our institutions and the future of our citizens.

Let us sum up the situation in order to find some specific remedial measures that the present government must and can apply to our economy within the existing and regular framework of our monetary, economic and political systems, without changing or disrupting our structures.

Today, heads of families and single persons get equal pay for equal work. Today, mothers receive no salary for their maternal care and domestic work. Today, children and students cost of lot of money but have no regular personal income. Today, companies make enormous profits but pay less taxes than organized workers. Let us consider these four points and see how easy it would be to remedy this situation and strike a better economic balance. When citizens pay \$5 in taxes, corporations pay only \$1. The government collects the total of \$6. All this should be changed so that individuals would pay \$3 as well as corporations. With a 40 per cent tax cut on personal income, corporations would only pay their fair share of taxes. Assuming that the 10,000,000 workers in the Canadian labour force earn an adequate income, proportionate to their contribution to the production of goods and services, the fact is that dependants without work or capital, which number almost 13,000,000, must be taken into account as they have a right to live and must receive a guaranteed personal income based on their basic essential needs.

From then on, Mr. Speaker, housewives who stay at home, to raise their family, children and students would get their guaranteed personal income on honorable terms and at reasonable rates as a personal vital right and no more as charity, alimony, unemployment insurance, alms or social welfare. In Canada, we have no poor, we only have people who have been denied their rights to life, in terms of a legitimate participation

[Mr. Allard.]

in national production, in Canadian and world natural resources and in all aspects of national and international trade.

All of you have greatly contributed to the study of our economic situation. I realize that I am putting forward new precisions and a new way to deal with inflation and unemployment, but I am also convinced that I have said nothing you have not heard before. I am not swaying away from the free enterprise principles which you are all familiar with and you would be surprised to hear that those precise techniques which I am advocating now, are a practical application of the great sharing law which was expounded by the great economist of world-wide reputation, Lord John Maynard Keynes, who addressed himself to the governments of various countries in the following terms: "Governments must make every effort to insure full employment through revenue redistribution, thereby giving consumers a purchasing power in keeping with the development of the production potential". That British economist and businessman who died in 1946, is still quoted in every western country, and taught many students in major English and American universities. The more we think over that balanced distribution law formulated by Keynes, between capital and consumption needs, the better we realize that the suggestions I am making here are perfectly consistent with that law of economic balance and harmony. It is the logic and common sense of the great economist Keynes that I tried to bring to you, to the best of my ability.

**Mr. Gilles Marceau (Lapointe):** Mr. Speaker, somebody once said that we do not know what tomorrow holds. If I knew the name of this man and if he were still alive, I would probably invite him to come and attend a few debates in the House of Commons and he would quickly change his saying for "we always know what tomorrow holds". The more I listen to my friends opposite, the more I find that the least we can say is that there is a lack of originality in their remarks.

If I try to remember what I have heard this afternoon and the remarks of hon. members I have listened to, I cannot find any constructive and innovative suggestion. First, I was very disappointed by the remarks of our new colleague, the hon. member for Témiscamingue (Mr. Caouette) who, on his first day in this House, did nothing else than make general and easy charges against the government. I would have thought that, with so likeable a leader, he would have understood that it is not with general charges and overall judgment on this government that we are going to solve the unemployment problem.

● (1710)

It is agreed, and I readily concur, that those who are in power have a clear responsibility for the problems we are facing whether they have to do with inflation, unemployment, social climate or national unity. Far from me the idea of exonerating the government or suggesting that it is entirely blameless and not partly responsible for current problems. However, Mr. Speaker, I think that if we want to provide solutions and if we are serious when on one side of the House or the other we maintain that we are aware of the fact that those who now experience difficulties are not members of the