

When we speak of the last part of this resolution it cannot be said that it is the desire of any great number of people in Canada to-day. I have before me a resolution adopted, not by a social credit group, because I know that would have absolutely no influence on my hon. friends opposite or elsewhere, but a resolution which certainly must be taken into consideration, and which goes a good deal further than I could possibly go myself. It is from the Western Producer of April 30, 1936, a statement made by the United Farmers of Canada, an organization which has been recognized in the past, and which to my mind certainly deserves consideration. This is what they have to say about this proposed loan council:

At the present time Premier Patterson is in conference with Hon. C. A. Dunning, considering whether Saskatchewan shall place herself under the financial domination of Ottawa, through the proposed loans council scheme. Before this is done, if not already too late, it is essential that we should realize what is involved. Previous warnings of the J.F.C. have gone unheeded, hence the present statement.

If this proposal is agreed to it means that Saskatchewan will surrender her financial autonomy to the Minister of Finance, who will thus be placed in the position of a dictator in regard to any refunding plan and of all future borrowings of the province, and as collateral security Saskatchewan will be required to pledge all amounts payable by the dominion in the form of subsidies and other specific revenues. Once our government has placed itself in this position it cannot withdraw. Call it what we will, this is fascism pure and simple.

In case subsidies are withheld, as may happen at any time under this plan, the immediate sufferers will be the most needy class in the community. Shortage of funds will cause the provincial government to begin to chisel at old age pensions, mothers' allowances, relief and other forms of expenditure, in an endeavour to make up the deficiency, and this would inevitably lower the general standard of living throughout the province. We trust Premier Patterson will have the courage to resist to the limit any effort at dictatorship from Ottawa.

As I said a moment ago, that is not the opinion expressed by some group of social crediters or anyone who might be said to be prejudiced against any plan of this nature, but a statement issued by the United Farmers of Canada.

Mr. EVANS: Cooperative Commonwealth Federation.

Mr. PELLETIER: They are people just like you and me.

Mr. McLEAN (Melfort): How many people issued that statement?

[Mr. Pelletier.]

Mr. PELLETIER: I have read it exactly as it is reported in this paper.

Mr. McLEAN (Melfort): At a convention?

Mr. PELLETIER: The point is that they are people just like yourself and myself; they have reason to issue a statement like that and their remarks are entitled to consideration.

Now, to come to the point raised by the Minister of Finance. I remember not long ago the Minister of Labour (Mr. Rogers) said that he wanted to know where he was going to land before he jumped. On the other hand I recall the Minister of Finance saying, when we asked a certain question in this house, that it was such questions which brought fear into the minds of certain people and retarded progress in Canada. I would say this to the minister, that I believe early and provident fear is the mother of safety, and if there is in this resolution something which causes us to be apprehensive for the future the time for us to state those fears is now before this wedge has been introduced.

The second part of this resolution is based upon this fact: It is stated as a matter of principle, and it cannot be gainsaid that the dominion has every right to ask a province to submit to certain conditions if it desires to obtain a loan from the federal government. It is said that that position cannot successfully be attacked. But just reverse that for a moment. By what power, for example, do we go into any province of this dominion and impose taxation upon its people in order to spend it upon a harbour in eastern Canada or in western Canada? They are Canadians like us all, and as such they submit to this taxation. Then, why should it be necessary for the people of any one province, who are also Canadians, to be subjected to conditions such as these?

There are certainly a great many things to be said about this resolution, and it would be impossible for me to make such a brilliant plea as has been made by the right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Bennett), who, I realize, is one of the greatest legal authorities in this dominion, and who states clearly that he does not see the necessity for the latter part of this resolution. As a layman and, as I said at the beginning, as one of those common people in Canada to-day, I listened to his argument, and I am forced to the conclusion that the resolution lacks the logic which one would expect to find in the persons who drew it up. I am not referring to the Minister of Justice because I believe he was away at the time. Be that as it may, I do not see that we require constitutional authority in the future to do the things that we are seeking to do and that have been done