

Monetary Proposals of Social Credit Party

price of furniture and other household appliances also increased as well as that of services. Indeed that sector showed an increase of 1.6 per cent during the third 1969 quarter, as compared with the previous one.

We also witnessed a tremendous increase in the interest rates of banks and finance companies. The current bank interest rate is of 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ or 9 per cent. As for those who cannot afford bank loans, they borrow from finance companies and other lending institutions at a rate of 18 per cent or 20 per cent and sometimes even higher.

I have here an advertisement of the Quebec government which proves my point quite well. This advertisement stipulates that Hydro-Quebec borrowed on December the 3rd an amount of 50 million dollars payable in American funds at 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent and falling due on December the 15th, 1995.

If we stop a while to examine this loan, we can notice that on December the 15th, 1995, Hydro-Quebec will have to hand over to the American lending companies, for this transaction, about 175 million dollars, that is nearly \$125 million in interest for a period of 25 years only. And the borrowed sum is \$50 million. I think it is absolutely insane to refund a sum three and a half times greater than the original debt after 25 years only. We wonder who will pick up the talk? Everybody knows it here. The Quebec taxpayers will pick it up that's who. This is one example among hundreds of others which prove the total lack of financial genius among the people who are ruling Canada.

I should like to draw the attention of the members to the increase in unemployment in Canada at the present time. It is another symptom of the inability of the present administration to solve the problem. According to bulletin 71-001F of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics for the month of November which deals with the labour force in October, there were 26,000 more unemployed compared to 1968. Expressed in percentage of the total labour force, the rate of unemployment in 1969 was 3.9 per cent in October 1969, compared to 3.4 per cent in September 1969 and 3.6 per cent in October 1968.

The rate of activity for men, in the third quarter of 1969, was inferior to the corresponding period in 1968, in every age group. There lies the reason for the existence of the government, with regard to those facts which prove, beyond a doubt, that the number of people who are reduced to the strict minimum is increasing daily.

[Mr. Beaudoin.]

I should also like to point out to the members the case of farmers who now stand, under the present administration, close to bankruptcy. About thirteen thousand farms disappeared last year. In 1967-68, there were 5.3 per cent fewer farmers in Canada. In support of those figures, here are a few excerpts from various reports. According to report No. 1349 of the Canadian Department of Agriculture, page 11 of the French version, and I quote:

Although the general consumer price index revealed an increase of 36 per cent between 1948-52 and 1964-68, the retail price of food products increased by only 33 per cent. In that same period, the prices paid the farmers increased by only 9 per cent.

So we have a gap of 27 per cent. This, in my opinion, is very serious. Some people in the federal government who have a keen interest in the present system will tell you: The government grants subsidies which help the farmer to get through.

I will now quote from page 12 of the same report, published by the Department of Agriculture a few weeks ago, and I quote:

Canadian farmers do not get much in the way of subsidies. A comparison made by the OECD shows that the federal spending for agriculture in Canada (which includes not only subsidies but all services such as research and survey) average about \$286 per gainfully employed person as against \$1,287 in the United States.

The difference amounts to a mere \$1,000 per year for every worker. What does the future hold in store for the Canadian farmers?

We can say without the shadow of a doubt that our financial system is inadequate. It may very well be that the people who run the economy of the country are incompetent, but I would rather blame the system. One can certainly not blame the country, for Canada is very rich. However, because of the poor administration of the present government, the poor are growing in number every day in the most appalling way.

By studying certain symptoms, we realize that the present government has failed in its effort to check inflation. We see now that the recipe was not good because there has been a frightening increase in the cost of insurance, municipal, school and other services. As for those who must ask for high interest rates, I cannot blame them because they need money to pay the interest on the loans they secured here and there.

Our economy is in a vicious circle and the only thing that could break it would be the