

Income Tax

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): But your constituents' business is my business.

Mr. Béchard: Mind your own business.

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): That's it, I mind it precisely. If you should mind yours too, instead of just fooling around with politics, things would be a lot better. Why don't you serve your constituents and put claims on their behalf?

Mr. Béchard: That is precisely what you have been doing, fooling around with politics.

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): Madam Speaker, freaks like the hon. member for Bonaventure-Îles-de-la-Madeleine go over there and pity miserable people, but they are the ones who uphold this system which holds them in misery over there.

Madam Speaker, the Minister of Agriculture says there is an agricultural surplus and farmers should stop producing and in the meanwhile some people badly want essentials, food, clothing. There are children in Montreal who have no clothes to wear to go to school. That is what we are witnessing in 1975. The Minister of Agriculture says: Stop producing, there is overproduction. We do not want the government to buy agricultural surpluses to enable farmers to earn a living until those products get sold. But if people do not have the necessary purchasing power to buy those products, there will obviously be overproduction. Everybody knows that.

Madam Speaker, what are we saying? We are now witnessing, as my colleague the hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Lambert) said earlier, a crazy race to gear wages to the cost of living and to gear the cost of living to wages. As soon as they start indexing, prices go up. What is the outcome of all that? The worker who strikes to have his wage geared to the cost of living is a loser: prices go up higher and faster than wages do. And anyway, even if the worker comes back from the factory with a bigger amount of money, if his groceries bag keeps shrinking, what good is it to him? That is what inflation is all about!

Will our taxation system change anything in that field? Absolutely not. Had a monetary reform been considered instead of a fiscal reform, as Lincoln said when he stated that the supreme responsibility of a government is to create its own credit to finance its expenses, and those of the consumers of that country, that credit would have been as sound as the country we live in. We request, here, a guaranteed annual income instead of tax reforms, and interest-free loans to the provinces; today, the Bank of Canada may, and is authorized to make loans, but only for periods of up to six months and for up to 25 per cent of the provincial budgets; Quebec could borrow two billions from the Bank of Canada this very afternoon, but only for a period not exceeding six months.

I introduced a bill to this effect in this House to extend the period from six months to 60 years. Our provinces deserve the same treatment that we give India, South America, Africa, that is, 60-year loans. When my bill was put before the House, it was killed. The provinces are not to be helped. We cannot afford to change from six months

[Mr. Béchard.]

to sixty years the period stipulated in the Bank of Canada Act.

Madam Speaker, the hon. member for Bonaventure-Îles-de-la-Madeleine (Mr. Béchard) voted against the motion allowing interest-free loans to the provinces. After that, he says he represents his constituents.

Mr. Béchard: I voted against the philosophy of the Social Credit Party. I am not a Social Crediter, I am a Liberal member.

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): This is the kind of advertisement the people from Magdalen Islands are receiving. The member just said so. All he does is vote against the Social Credit Party, that is all. What intelligence for a notary! Madam Speaker—

Mr. Béchard: What demagogy!

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): Yes, I understand, what demagogy!

When I think that this member once sat at your place, Madam Speaker, when he was playing politics—

Mr. Béchard: This is not true!

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): —in the Chair instead of respecting the political views of the members.

Mr. Béchard: This is not true!

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): Madam Speaker, if the hat fits him, I'll put it on him right down to his ears: I say it is horrible—

Mr. Béchard: Madam Speaker, may I put a question to the hon. member for Témiscamingue?

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): No, Madam Speaker, not until I am through with my speech. No question! Madam Speaker, when we introduce—

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): Order, please. Does the hon. member wish to ask a question?

Mr. Béchard: Madam Speaker, I wish to ask one, but—

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): Later, after I am finished with my remarks.

Mr. Béchard: The hon. member is unable to answer!

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): The hon. member never rises to speak, he has no right to speak. Moreover, he does not have the heart to do so, either. Madam Speaker—

Mr. Béchard: You attend once a month!

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): Yes, when I am in hospital, I would not want to see that man in front of me or beside me in my room.

Madam Speaker—

Mr. Béchard: That is not funny!

An hon. Member: He is a mere cipher!