

Employment Support Bill

million which will be provided to citizens will be taken from the taxpayer's pocket.

● (9:50 p.m.)

If we use the taxpayers' money to improve the lot of a few, we will be placing some other Canadian citizens in a difficult situation. If we take from some to give to the others, we will be depriving some of the purchasing power that could help the economic expansion of our country. If we do that, we will help a few, but we will displease a large number of other citizens who do not have the purchasing power required to meet their needs. If we take that money to solve such a problem, we will not have found a solution but increased the taxes and the cost of living.

On the other hand, the Progressive Conservatives made some suggestions, professing to have found solutions. In fact, they only criticize and claim they could do better without, however, saying what they would do. The progressive Conservatives do not have any solution to the problem. They would like to take the helm of the state, but how would they do it, they do not know! They do not say so either.

The New Democratic Party offers something else. They would like to levy a retaliatory tax against the Americans in order to increase the price of our primary products, thus offsetting the effects of the American surtax. I do not believe that it would be either a practical solution to the economic problem which we would like to solve.

In addition, the New Democratic Party is demanding the reduction of interest rates and this in my opinion is a little more logical, because it would somewhat decrease the cost of living and slightly relieve the Canadian taxpayers, without nevertheless solving the present problem.

These are the suggestions which have been made to this government to help it solve the problem.

As for the party which I represent, I firmly believe that it has some genuine solutions to offer. We could remedy in an efficient, fast and common sense way the situation which we have to face. We suggest the removal of the 12 per cent tax so as to alleviate the tax burden for all Canadians. This measure would in effect decrease the cost of living and compensate for the 10 per cent tax imposed by the Americans. We would achieve this by granting a compensated discount covered by new lines of credit extended by our central bank, without depriving anyone from one cent of purchasing power.

I feel that this logical solution should be considered, even if it is not likely to please important investors and financiers. I also know that the servants of finance—and they are many in this chamber—are not thoroughly knowledgeable in economics and are in favour of the present system and of all kinds of charges and taxes.

When it is a matter of reducing the cost of living in order to allow Canadians to remain masters in their own house, no solution can be found. We are told that we are mistaken, but the economic depression persists and we remain faced with poverty, anarchy and revolt. To get back to our senses rules of justice and fair social stan-

dards must be established since only socially-minded people will solve our economic problem.

Everyone wants balance but not equality. Revolutionary experiments launched under the banner of equality have all failed. In a national administration, increased production becomes the objective and such production is divided into consumption, capitalization. It is the same administrative formula which corresponds to the words used in all personal, family, social, co-operative, municipal and even federal administrations. Incomes are divided into expenses and benefits, hence incomes, expenses and benefits. That is where we must stop and that is what we must consider and put into practice.

May I call it ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order. I would like to point out to the hon. member for Compton that it is not quite ten o'clock, and unless the House wishes to call it ten o'clock, I will have to recognize another member.

[English]

Does the House agree to call it ten o'clock?

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): D'accord.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION—REQUEST BY MEMBER OF ARGENTIA TASK FORCE THAT CHAIRMAN RESIGN

Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, the story of the phase-down of the United States naval base at Argentia, Newfoundland, and the social and economic chaos that has resulted therefrom has been related in this House many times. During the past couple of years hon. members have heard me in this chamber and in the committee plead with the government for action and for a solution to the problem. During this short debate time will not permit me to again outline in detail the magnitude of the problems facing the people who live in and who have been affected by the rapid deterioration of the economy in this area, but certain aspects of the situation must be repeated. My plea for assistance for the people of the area must be renewed because to a large extent my pleas in the past have fallen on deaf ears.

Shortly after the phase-down of the naval base commenced, a federal task force was appointed under the chairmanship of a senior official of the Department of Regional Economic Expansion. That gentleman found early in the game that it can become terribly frustrating when one tries to run with the hares and hunt with the hounds or wear two tight-fitting hats. The gentleman in question was chairman of that task force in name only because it stands to reason that being a senior, career civil servant with the usual concern for self-preservation he could not allow the task force to get out of hand and make demands which would embarrass his minister or the government.

[Mr. Latulippe.]