

Canada Student Loans Act

In western Canada, parents face a wheat surplus that they cannot sell; in eastern Canada, it is fish, in Quebec, it is wood and milk, in the province of Ontario, it is corn, fruits, vegetables, wood, and mines that they cannot develop. Parents and children, all are fighting the present system, which does not make sense at all.

That is why I said a while ago—and I have some evidence, because like the students, I got it on good authority—that some students are compelled to pay their school fees with barley and wheat, since they are penniless. The government says: "Now you will have some money because you will be allowed to borrow." But borrow where? From banks and finance companies. Instead of using the Bank of Canada to help the provinces to solve their education problems, students are allowed to be in debt to banks.

If the government has the means to draw up a bill, could it not also issue a government bond which would be bought by the Bank of Canada and made available to the provinces?

● (5:30 p.m.)

When they come to Ottawa, the provinces should ask the central government to use the means at its disposal rather than spend its time saying to the provinces, as the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) does: We are sovereign, we administer the taxes that we collect, that is all. If we do not have money, it is because we do not collect enough taxes. To get more money, we will have to levy more taxes, and since we do not intend to do that, we advise the provinces to take their responsibilities, to get money from their own taxpayers, so the federal government will be cleared of the charges now laid against it.

But does that solve anything? No. We are going towards general paralysis in Canada, in education as in everything else. Not only is paralysis coming, it is a fact!

The farmers in western Canada are paralyzed with stacks of wheat and the people in the Maritimes, with stacks of fish. The same phenomenon appears all over Canada. And the government says: Our only financial solution is taxation. And inflation follows.

They try to quiet down reactions by telling the western farmers: You know, we are going through a period of inflation. Therefore, do bear with it, let your wheat rot on the field. To the eastern fishermen, they say: "We are going through a period of inflation. Let your fish rot there." And to everybody, they sing

[Mr. Caouette.]

the same tune: Inflation prevails. Let yourselves be paralyzed.

However, if war broke out tomorrow, the present government would find billions of dollars to get the young students into the army, to feed them, clothe them and house them decently, for then they would say: This is national urgency.

But, when it comes to helping our young people to build Canada and to prepare them to take over the reins, this government says: We are in a period of inflation, and newspapermen believe that, because we can read through the pages of the newspapers: Inflation prevents us from doing this and that. The first people that I would get into the army if war were declared, would be all the Canadian newspapermen. Then, they would learn the difference between inflation and deflation.

Mr. Speaker, there must be an end to all this deceit and it is done on the back of our young people, because we cannot do anything for them. But comes war, and immediately, we can do everything and nothing is missing. But in peace time, it is not the same thing any longer. Universities, let us close them.

I was referring earlier to Moscow and Prague where students have no tuition fees to pay and moreover get \$30 a month to study. If under a communist system where freedom is non-existent, students are assisted, in a system where private enterprise must be respected, there is not a single worthwhile reason why they should not be treated in the same manner. I am in no way suggesting that communists are right or wrong, but they certainly look better after their students than we have done up to now.

Everybody knows how much I am against marxism whose aim is to make an individual the slave of the state. On the contrary, I want the state to serve the individual, the mother, the child and the older people. It is precisely this philosophy of life advocated by the *Ralliement Creditiste* in our province, in our country.

We are not working against one another; we want a state, a government, a parliament that takes into consideration the needs of the individual.

If ever we legislate in terms of the needs of the individuals, of our physical possibilities, then, Mr. Speaker, we can say that in this country of ours we have a system of personal freedom that guarantees security to all the people, including the students who are entitled to a better treatment than the one provided for in this bill.