

production problem. Thought is given only to dollars that can enable us to exist, as is now the case in many sectors.

● (1700)

Now, Mr. Chairman, our suggestion is simple: let us pay out a guaranteed annual income and a compensated discount to the consumers; then we will see the economy prosper more than in any other country, even though some will rise in a while who will ask: Where has social credit been implemented? Nowhere. If it is so wonderful, why is it not implemented? Because people do not understand.

I shall give you an example to prove my point. Before being created, the caisses populaires did not inspire much confidence in people. I was one of the founding members of the one we have in Rouyn. People would come in, heads lowered—they were scared—to pay their \$5 membership. People were even afraid of losing their \$5 in those days. Today, the caisses populaires have become just about the most important trump card in the whole Quebec economy. In fact, they now have assets exceeding \$2 billion. And how did they start? With a bunch of scaredy-cats, who later on became less scared. And even though my hon. friends in this House are timorous, they should try it out. It would not take long; they would lose some of their fear, and save Canada with me.

Mr. Harney: Mr. Chairman, talking about timorous people, one must understand that we all more or less dread speaking after the hon. member for Témiscamingue (Mr. Caouette). In fact, it is very difficult to have enough talent to compare oneself to him, particularly when he chooses to quote encyclicals which date back to 1931. As for me, I must admit that I do not know to well the encyclicals of that period.

An hon. Member: They are more of current interest than ever.

Mr. Harney: All I know about 1931 is that it was the year I was born. But I recall quite well a little more recent encyclical, written by John XXIII. I cannot quote it, but it said very frankly and directly that the economy is there to serve man, and that the modern states must realize that, to be better served by the economy, men, especially workers, needed and must form unions, and that everything should be done for the development of workers' unions. Consequently, if one wants to quote encyclicals on one side, others can do so as well. Maybe they have the same meaning, but then the one I referred to is more recent.

Obviously, I am speaking about the bill before us, but since the hon. member for Témiscamingue addressed a few words in our direction, I hope I will be allowed to answer him, perhaps not directly but at least in the same fashion.

He indicated that if the New Democratic Party had the choice, it would go and see the workers in plants to encourage them to ask for higher salaries. I quite agree with him. We shall do it willingly, because it must be admitted that in Canada incomes are unfairly distributed. As the hon. member for Yorkton-Melville (Mr. Nystrom) said recently during the same debate on this very bill, only 20 per cent of our fellow citizens earn 50 per cent of the salaries, of the incomes. This means that in our cities,

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people are suffering from hardships and certainly need to be encouraged to press increasingly for higher salaries.

I was rather surprised to hear the hon. member for Témiscamingue (Mr. Caouette) compare the socialists on this side of the House to the socialists in Czechoslovakia or Russia. There are certain differences. I am sure that if I made a rather easy comparison between the thinking of the member for Témiscamingue and that of Hjalmar Shacht, whom he used to admire, I could not associate the hon. member with the regime under which Mr. Shacht served.

But let us pass over those things. I would simply tell the hon. member that we should not worry too much about socialism. It is true that it was feared many years ago. I quite remember when I was living in Quebec that I received a monthly newsletter sent by the Southern Canada Power Company which no longer exists since it was nationalized by the province of Quebec. A regular feature was a cartoon of a little man made of electric plugs and wires and known in good French-Canadian as Reddy Kilowatt. Reddy Kilowatt had a store of little wisdoms. One month he told us: Socialism is the fifth column of communism I am pleased to see now that the propaganda of Reddy Kilowatt is not as widespread in Quebec as it used to be.

I would also like to say to the hon. member for Témiscamingue that we do not have to worry too much because today we are all more or less socialists, at least a little. Even Mr. Bennett, the former premier of British Columbia, nationalized electric power in 1961. He resorted to nationalization, he dabbled in socialism. That is the way it goes. That does not mean that I am accusing the hon. member and his colleagues of socialism, I will spare them for the time being. But generally speaking, it must be admitted that, in a modern Parliament, we cannot manage a modern economy without being socialist a little.

[*English*]

But there are different kinds of socialists, even though I spare the hon. member for Témiscamingue from that accusation. I look around the House and see that they are all socialists more or less, in some degree. We have been accused of being creeping socialists, but really sometimes as I listen to the Conservatives I feel that they are socialists too. I detect that there is a difference between the parties in this chamber and that the members of the government party are a little more forthright. In this corner, Mr. Chairman, we have the marching socialists, clearly and simply.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): Three cheers for our troops.

Mr. Harney: There is one thing which the hon. member for Témiscamingue said which I thought of some interest, and that had to do with the matter of exportation of our funds. I will come back to this point later. Members of my party who spoke before me have covered this ground almost totally; so effectively that there are only one or two points left for me to make.

The hon. member for Yorkton-Melville covered the social impact of this bill, informing the House adequately and fully, quoting sufficient statistics to indicate that the