

printing press going over night and tomorrow we should all have a lot of brand new bills of the Bank of Canada, covering all administration expenditures. I myself could do with a few. But we are realists; we are members of parliament sent here by our constituents to deal in a logical way with the problems of this country. Surely past and present ministers of finance, who must know the financial system of this country and the monetary systems of the world, and who no doubt suffer sleepless nights because of the requests made upon their department, that they cannot implement, would be much happier men if, upon the discussion of a resolution such as this, they could say to you, Mr. Speaker, "I am not satisfied to leave the pensionable age at sixty-five years; I am going to reduce it to fifty years and to pay forty dollars a month instead of twenty." That would be a wonderful statement, even politically speaking, for a minister to be able to make. It would be much easier for me to be reelected if the present minister could do so.

But again we must face the situation as it is. It is fine to be a theorist about the monetary system; it is pleasant to talk of a coming day when the government will be such a wonderful Santa Claus that everything we require from it will be granted. I have no personal grievance against the Social Credit group. But let me examine their position as it might affect our province. Taking the minimum sum they promised during the last election, and applying it to my own riding, if the fifty thousand adults there were to get twenty-five dollars a month each there would be \$1,250,000 per month for my constituency. Multiply that by the twelve months of the year, and you have an annual distribution of \$15,000,000 in my constituency to adults alone. There is no doubt that that would be greatly welcomed and rapidly spent. But enlarge the field; apply the principle to the whole of Canada, and multiply the sum of \$15,000,000 by 245 ridings; at the end of the year you would have distributed \$3,675,000,000 to adults only. If you include the children, who would be entitled to some compensation, the amount would be not less than \$4,500,000,000, and if you total these distributions for the life of the present parliament they would come to the enormous sum of \$22,500,000,000.

Mr. KUHLMAN: Is it physically possible?

Mr. BRADETTE: It is physically impossible. We talk of priming the financial pump—

Mr. KUHLMAN: Are the goods and the services there?

Mr. BRADETTE: The inflation would be over twenty-two billions of dollars. We must

[Mr. Bradette.]

realize what that would mean. The dollars in our own pockets which now have some value would then have no value whatever; you could not exchange them for the value of the printed matter there is on them. We must be practical in dealing with such matters, because they are important. I am not going to argue that the present monetary system is absolutely perfect; it is far from it. I believe it should be amended from year to year, and that it should be possible for us to achieve a better relation between production and distribution. The age of need must have disappeared; we have demonstrated that to some extent by the surpluses of all kinds which we have had. But let us not fool ourselves on that account. In this country we may have surpluses of wheat and some other grains; but we have not a surplus of all the commodities required, and so we have to exchange with other nations such surpluses as we have for the goods we require from them. People talk of priming the financial pump. To issue currency in the manner that has been suggested would not be "priming"; we should strike such a huge undercurrent stream that we would have the biggest flood in phony money which has ever been known since that first flood which covered the whole world.

These are considerations we must keep in mind when we discuss the problems of this country. It is easy to make in this chamber proposals which we must know are absolutely impossible of application. I wish it were possible that some hon. members had to undertake for a month or so the responsibilities of the Minister of Finance, and to learn from experience the impossibility of implementing all the requests that are made.

I shall, however, make this observation, that I sincerely believe if ever inflation is carried out by any government, it will be for the enlargement of the social activities of the state, to help the sick and the old and the blind, and that is the very best purpose to which it could be applied.

Mr. KUHLMAN: What is inflation?

Mr. BRADETTE: Well, I am not going to theorize on that point. We had an example of it during the war. But I would like hon. members to realize that nowhere in this world, under any circumstances, can you get something for nothing.

Mr. KUHLMAN: Is there inflation in England now?

Mr. BRADETTE: That is a philosophy which has been with us ever since the birth of time, and we cannot get away from it.