

Bank of Canada Act

think we are on the verge of revolution, and if hon. members do not see it coming, I do. That is why I speak about it in this house, that is why I am making a heartfelt appeal so that everybody may realize that something must be done to start improving this disquieting economic situation. That is the only reason why I mention this, for I bear no grudge against anyone. I believe that we are all the same, in the sense that we are all elected by the people and we all mean well. However, we do nothing, while we must talk it over to accomplish anything, admit the facts, in short sit down and discuss the problems. If you allow the same problems to remain without any change, and if you do not want to change them, if you will not make any improvement and laugh at those who are trying to make improvements, what do you expect to change?

If you do not remedy the situation, you will see it get worse, you will see human weakness, rancour, misery which leads to enmity, because people are ridiculed, because life is too miserable and it is too hard to benefit from science and progress, in short, because it is too hard to fulfil the duty as a citizen.

Mr. Chairman, no one should ever forget that each human being, even if only an infant, is much more important than any economic system in the world, and of even greater consequence in terms of reorganization and improvement of our economy, our financial situation, the circulation of our money, and all the various sectors of our economic activities.

All the Minister of Finance says is that we will have to organize taxation and use the means that our taxation system makes available to us, that is, tax the people who are already burdened, unable to live. Levy new taxes; is that what you want Mr. Minister? Is that your solution to the problems? If you have no other solution than that, at least be good enough to listen to those who offer you some; give them a try at least. If they produce nothing, if they do not work, you will always be able to change them.

But you have no solution to offer to improve present economic conditions in the country. You have no solution, you keep on applying the old methods, you will only maintain bodies of the past which are of no use to the people, to the country and to foreign countries. It is impossible to find financial means to enable the citizens to live decently. And if war were declared

tomorrow morning, the minister would find millions and billions of dollars. Yet, when the old age pension was increased, we had to have new taxes immediately because we had no money, because we could not find the funds to finance the cost of the \$280 million increase in old age pensions.

New taxes were levied in order to collect \$400 million. However, \$280 million only were needed, but since the minister is interested in all kinds of fields, he took that opportunity to increase the taxes and to further burden the citizens who cannot pay such taxes.

In the municipality where I live, at the present time, 74 properties have been sold for school taxes. Yet, there are those who say that there are no financial problems in Canada. It is the same everywhere, throughout the country. There are no problems to settle. Those who mention them are not listened to.

It should be realized that the situation is more serious than one cares to admit. I know that those who always sat on padded arm chairs, who always drew a salary of \$20,000 to \$40,000, are not aware of the troubled situation which prevails in Canada. They know nothing of the problems faced by the families, the farmers, the municipalities. Especially when everything has always gone well at home, when one has always been well treated.

• (6:10 p.m.)

[English]

The Chairman: I must interrupt the hon. member to advise him that the time allotted to him has expired.

Mr. Mongrain: Mr. Chairman, in rising now I feel that I should apologize because I am afraid I am imposing on the committee. But when my time ran out this afternoon I still had a conclusion to draw. I addressed a few questions to the minister. He gave me some answers and these prompt some comments from me. I will make my observations very brief.

Last night the minister answered a suggestion by the hon. member for Villeneuve by saying, "This has never been done before". I thought I had explained to the minister this afternoon a formula which has been operating for more than a century to help ease the financial situation of municipalities. In answer to some of my questions the minister said this was a provincial responsibility. I