

duction, a number of able-bodied people must have participated in that process by their labour and have received a salary which is their purchasing power. If they have not done so, they have to do without.

Hence, taking into account the second consideration, it is then abnormal that there should be more than 600,000 workers deprived of their weekly income. This in turn reduces the purchasing power of several million people and prevents our economic system from fulfilling its purpose which is to ensure each and everyone a decent living or at the least the bare vital minimum.

Yet, every day, at the opening of the sitting in this House, we feel the need to ask God to give us our daily bread. It is readily noticeable that God does respond generously to our prayers. Let us consider for instance the glut of our natural resources, the huge production of all sorts of goods which is made possible and which we have the means to develop still further. But, unfortunately, there is another god that stands between man and his Creator and I mean the god of money that has become the unrivalled master of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson) and of his provincial counterparts. He is the father of all the trusts which exploit mankind and prevent our economic system from operating effectively in the area of distribution.

We, Cr ditistes, are fighting against this kind of dictatorship. We know beforehand that the fight will be tough, but our duty is to fight more fiercely than ever and reduce this god of money to the role of a mere servant of the people, as it should be. We are fighting against the strongest of all trusts, the one which like an octopus whose tentacles worm their way in all directions at the same time, control everything for just one purpose, profit, without regard for the welfare of the people.

● (9:50 p.m.)

We have quite a plentiful farm production but because of the government's economic theory, this production will have to be scaled down to suit demand. The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson) said today that the farmers must adjust to market conditions. And yet it is only to the farmers that the government is using such language. We have a surplus of university graduates and yet the fees they charge are far from decreasing as is the case for certain farm products.

The government had an inquiry made on poverty in Canada. It is now aware that there are poor people in our country and that if they enjoyed the buying power corresponding to their needs, farm product consumption would be quite higher and Bill C-176 on marketing would have more chances of succeeding.

Under the pretense of giving farmers a higher standard of living, the government has decided on the elimination of all small farms. The same applies to the other industries; and under the pretense of efficiency the government wants to eliminate all small concerns. This is dangerous and the first to notice it will certainly be the powerful people in our society. Big fish which feed on small fish have always taken care by instinct not to destroy all the small ones so as to survive. Are men less intelligent than fish? The time has come to guarantee the

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farmers a fair and reasonable income because the current prices of various products are markedly inadequate and many farmers are about to go bankrupt.

This is the case for hog and broiler producers. I have here a letter dated December 22, 1970 from a Mr. V zina from St. Justine in the constituency of Bellechasse, which reads:

—the elevator prices of feed grain in Quebec City, at Benguy's, are as follows: barley No. 1 feed: \$2.78 per cwt; oats: \$2.85 per cwt; wheat \$2.78½ per cwt; American golden corn, size 3: \$3.24½ per cwt, and today the price of pork is 23 cents per lb; broilers are at 16 cts per lb and chicken is at 21 cents per lb.

And he goes on like this:

Mr. Lambert, let us compare this with prices for grain last year at the same date, December 22, 1969. Barley No. 1 feed: \$2.12½ per cwt—

—now at \$2.78—

—oats 1 feed: \$2.18 per cwt—

—today at \$2.78½, and—

—pork sold for 37 cents per lb—

—last year at the same time while it now sells for 23—

—broilers sold for 29 cents per lb—

—it sells for 16 cents today.

It just cannot work in these conditions.

And he goes on to say:

Here, in my area, we were raising broilers in St. Magloire, in St. Camille and in St. Sabine. The breeders are losing money, the hen houses are empty and the breeders are unable to pay us.

Then, he adds:

It is the same thing with hog producers, most of them have discontinued their operation and owe us money.

And he concludes by saying:

Our region was beginning to develop some breeding specialties with our financing; it is a failure; if grain prices do not go down, our business is bound to go bankrupt. It is regrettable. But I have invested my life's savings—I am 56 years of age—and the federal Farm Loans Corporation refuses to lend money to farmers from the upper sections of the county. I could give you the names of those who have been turned down. What do you say, Mr. Lambert?

What do I say? Well, I said it right from the start: we must give those producers an opportunity to sell their products at a price which would leave them a profit so that they can get their fair share of our national income and live decently.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, there are also means of coping with the situation, namely by setting up new industries. People sometimes say: It is impossible to set up industries in areas such as eastern Quebec, it would not be feasible. Yet, we have seen some remarkable examples: Bombardier in Valcourt, Vachon in Sainte-Marie, les Industries provinciales in Saint-Damien and many others which were quite successful which shows it is possible to set up industries in some other places than in large centres.

However, if such an industrial development is to be successful, the government must be willing to reform the financial system, so as to enable the Canadian people to buy the production of existing as well as new industries,