

Monetary Proposals of Social Credit Party

according to their income, talent and ambition.

Social Credit is a measure that directly reaches the individual by means of the national dividend and the compensated discount while, with the present various government social security measures, more than half the amounts earmarked for assistance to the individual or the family never reach them, on account of the go-betweens, the multiplicity of programs and duplication of administrations.

The individual is taxed up to his ears at present and gets only crumbs in return.

It is therefore impossible for older people to make ends meet with a maximum pension of \$107. It is also impossible for a blind person to live on a maximum pension of \$75 per month. Thus families or widows who have to rely on social welfare cannot make it. The number of poor in Canada is steadily increasing in spite of more and more extensive social security measures.

To be honest, the members owe it to themselves to give thorough consideration to the Cr ditiste proposals, so as to provide this country with a distribution system of wealth as efficient as our production system.

I should like to remind the House that whatever some members may say, the poverty problem in Canada is due to the present monetary system and policy, because even though we have generalized the implementation of our production methods, we have failed to improve our wealth distribution method in order to really reach the people for whom we are producing. Two million children live in poverty in Canada; 350,000 women and one million children are on welfare. One out of five urban families in Canada has an income of less than \$3,000 per year. Finally, more than 160,000 rural families have an income below \$3,000 per year.

● (5:20 p.m.)

These statistics appeared in the November 1969 issue of *McLean's Report*.

Before such poverty, we can see that production must be equitably distributed and reach the individual according to a system that respects his freedom and dignity. Therefore, it is my pleasure and my privilege to support the motion of the hon. member for Shefford, and my duty to call upon hon. members on all sides of the house to study it carefully.

If we fail to do so and other hon. members have nothing to suggest, it means that they

[Mr. Fortin.]

support the present system and are accessory to the spreading of poverty.

Under that system, we are going around in circles. Thus, the government is proving right those who challenge it and want to overthrow it. We feel that we will not succeed through dissent but through serious and honest discussion. Farmers today are studying their problems and are trying to find solutions which they do not want to impose on anyone. They only invite others to take their difficulties into consideration.

I therefore urge hon. members to study proposals and resolutions in order to attempt to solve the problems with which Canadians are now faced.

It is our duty to guarantee each and every Canadian economic security in freedom while respecting his dignity, which is certainly not the case at the present time.

● (5:30 p.m.)

[English]

Mr. Steven Otto (York East): Mr. Speaker, the motion asks that Parliament give serious consideration to the monetary proposals of the Social Credit Party. I intend to do that. I know it is very unpopular in Ottawa to admit any knowledge of Social Credit theories. The lowest civil servant would never admit in front of anyone that he understands Social Credit theory, or that he has ever read it. Of course, Members of Parliament within 50 feet of the House of Commons will deny they know anything about it, but once they get out of the 50-foot radius, where they are nobodies, they will admit they know something about it. None of the ministers would ever consider admitting they understand Social Credit theories, and indeed the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson) will deny he ever understood or now understands them, because it is not fashionable to do so. However, it was not always thus.

I recall the occasion about six years ago, and some hon. members who are present were in the House at that time, when the right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker) was leading the government and a motion of non-confidence was introduced because the government was not introducing debt-free money. It was a Social Credit motion—

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Moved by the hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Thompson).