

Distribution of Goods and Services

ships, planes and other things. We had training courses for pilots, observers and other combat teams. If this sort of thing can be done during wartime it can be done during peacetime in respect of our war on poverty.

We do not follow any old Social Credit policy. We do not believe in the appointment of Crown corporations as an answer to the situation. We do not think the government will succeed in solving this problem in respect of poverty by a false or unrealistic approach. Such an approach might be followed by the opening or re-opening of factories, but would not develop a sound or profitable economy. The only result would be an increased tax load.

An hon. Member: Will it ever?

Mrs. MacInnis: I see hon. members on the other side smiling. I suggest to them that these necessary things should be done before other things are carried out. These people in the poverty class can work and will work. Before you call me to order, Mr. Speaker, and I notice that you are becoming a little restless, I should like to say one or two things.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I must bring to the attention of the hon. member the fact that her time has expired.

Mrs. MacInnis: Mr. Speaker, may I just finish this sentence?

Mr. Speaker: Is this agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

● (9:20 p.m.)

Mrs. MacInnis: I will make it reasonably short, Mr. Speaker. Before this session is much further advanced the government should at least decide how it can give the people in the poverty bracket in this country faith that the government means what it says, that it intends to work, however slowly, toward achieving a just society.

[*Translation*]

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, the motion which we presented today was rather important since we were tremendously honoured with the participation of two cabinet ministers.

We must admit that this intrusion of the minister in a Créditiste debate is for us a kind of victory, because if we analyse the present political situation in our country and more particularly in Quebec, we find that the

government, nay, the party in office has just realized that people are ready to try something new, that they are ready to carry out what the Minister of Regional and Economic Expansion has called illusions.

Mr. Speaker, we are not afraid to put these so-called illusions into practice.

And the participation of these two ministers in this debate shows quite clearly that the Liberal party found that the Créditistes become stronger and stronger, more and more important, not because they are Créditistes as such, but because the solution they offer, in this time of extreme confusion from one end of the country to the other is the only one that bring something new.

Mr. Speaker, you will allow me to challenge the most important argument of the hon. Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Marchand). I looked at him from the galleries this afternoon, and the minister was really in fine fettle. He congratulated us, the Créditistes, for having successfully prodded the Establishment, for having finally budged one of these administrations which followed one another and which never thought of implementing solutions which are as simple as shelling peas, Mr. Speaker.

When the hon. Minister of Regional Economic Expansion tells us that he would be the first one to accept our suggestions right away, and that if it were useful to spread around two more billions—that was the figure he gave—to help solving the problem of the distribution of wealth, he would do it immediately and that he would be happy to do it.

And he went on to tell us how he is trying, personally, and along with the government, to solve that problem, how they have set their heart on solving it, and how they are trying everything under the sun. But it is passing strange. Why try so hard, with all kinds of plans, while rejecting our solution out of hand. Why reject it? Mainly because it has never been tried before, they tell us, it has never been put to work.

Mr. Speaker, this is sophistry, an essentially stupid argument. I wish to offer a few comparisons.

Mr. Speaker, fifty years ago, if our grandparents had been told that in a few years they would be able to see animated images transmitted across hundreds of miles, they would have said that it was an illusion, pure utopia, a ridiculous or even an insane idea.