

*Distribution of Goods and Services*

have you, this is the whole problem. We manage to solve it in time of war, but we cannot do so in time of peace. What do we want? To guarantee the vital minimum by way of a national dividend based on the gap between the production and the national income of Canadians. This dividend would not be based on the moon or on some kind of a hoax, as some people suggest from time to time but on realities, that is on the products and on the affluence that exist. This dividend would be available to everybody, to children as well as adults, regardless of income, because if we cause inspectors to intervene, they will eat up all the dividend, and there will be nothing left for the private citizen. We should have as little bureaucracy as possible.

It is recognized that large companies pay dividends to their shareholders, and the largest company in the country is Canada. Why should this company, which produces more than it earns, not be entitled to a dividend for each of its members, while this right is recognized for the big corporations. According to Canadian statistics, whenever there are production surpluses people could receive a dividend to enable them to purchase such products. That would not create inflation but would balance the Canadian economy. That would contribute to a more rational system. We would no longer have to see people starving to death in front of loads of products.

What do we suggest? That real costs be reduced through compensated discount. It was done during the war. I remember the compensated discount allowed on milk for instance. The producer was receiving the full amount for his quart of milk, while the government was paying two cents which represented a benefit for the consumer. During the war, the compensated discount policy was applied but once peace was restored, it was no longer possible. Compensated discount can no longer be allowed.

We believe that those two methods would restore financial order in Canada. For the application of these two systems we must use the Bank of Canada if the latter is to serve Canadian interests instead of scheming with the other banks in order to cover up the misdeeds of the present banking system, of those who really steal the national heritage.

Mr. Speaker, the Bank of Canada is called upon to play quite a different role if government and parliament decide to use it. For instance, what prevents the Bank of Canada

[Mr. Caouette.]

from financing without interest the public sector of administration just as we do for some foreign countries?

The federal government has started using this policy of interest free loan to get the city of Montreal out of trouble; the government agreed to a \$5 million loan—fancy, Mr. Speaker, \$5 million—without interest, for the first time in the history of Canada. The government is improving.

I hope that thanks to enlightened men such as the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, we will succeed in obtaining loans without interest for the economic development of municipalities and provinces, leaving the private sector free to borrow from chartered banks as they do at this time.

That will not deprive the chartered banks of their lending power. However, that prevents bankers from ruining Canadians through a government which keeps taxing us, instead of giving us what belongs to us, fairly and rightfully.

Then, Mr. Speaker, we suggest that we should use the Bank of Canada. We do not mention it in our motion. The motion says:

That, in the opinion of the house, the government has failed to take adequate measures in order to give Canadians the benefit of a policy of distribution of goods and services which would allow each citizen to obtain his share of Canadian abundance.

In my opinion, that motion deserves the confidence of hon. members. The government should take positive and progressive steps instead of backward steps, while saying to the citizens of Canada to be ready to tighten their belts in 1970.

Mr. Speaker, we have had enough belt tightening. We had plenty of that in the past, and we do not want it any more. We want more freedom and real security, we want ministers who act positively, not ministers who follow the American astronauts in their trip to the moon. We want people who are standing on both feet right here in Canada, who can see affluence but also hardship.

If we want to fight poverty, the time has come for us, as responsible Canadian parliamentarians, to take efficient steps that will insure security and freedom for everyone.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

• (4:00 p.m.)

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, I be-