

One of the reasons hon. members on the opposite side get so exercised when members on this side appear to chastise the government is that hon. members opposite never get the opportunity to listen to members on this side talking to government ministers outside the Chamber. Hon. members opposite never get to see their suggestions come to fruition in the form of legislation. They cry, call out, and cajole, negatively, except for one hon. member opposite who made a few positive recommendations tonight. Opposition members cry about our destroyed country and claim there is no hope, both of which are demonstrated to be without foundation. As long as the government is prepared to act responsibly, as it has done in the textile industry, I do not have to make false accusations.

● (2222)

The government has protected the producers of things like mushrooms, tomatoes as a raw product and canned tomatoes. It has acted responsibly in regard to the shoe industry, the bicycle industry and a host of others I could name. If the government continues to be prepared to respond in terms similar to the ones I raised tonight, I do not have to stand and make false accusations indicating the country's economy is destroyed. I can go to bed tonight assured that the producers are protected, a lot of new jobs will be created, and the problems will be dealt with. Come the next election we will find more hope in this country than hon. members opposite would like to think.

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

[Translation]

**Mr. Gilles Caouette (Témiscamingue):** Mr. Speaker, I would certainly have liked to have the floor for about twenty minutes. I thought it was understood right from the start that I would have about twenty minutes to close the debate. Unfortunately, I barely have six minutes left. However, the purpose of the motion which was put forward today was to call the attention of the general public and of the hon. members of the House to some specific aspects of our economy.

As the hon. member who spoke before me has just indicated, everything is for the best in the best of worlds, the government created 292,000 jobs, there is no problem but in his constituency, the agricultural production of last summer has not been bought because it was cheaper to buy from California. Furthermore, in spite of this day of debate, in spite of the speeches which have been made, I am forced to note that there are still some hon. members on the government side who, like the one who has just spoken before me, have not yet understood that our problems are a creation of the government. Today, we have to try to find solutions to those problems.

We hear about imports into our country, about massive imports, and the hon. member who spoke before me had that problem in his constituency, but has yet to realize that he and

### *Canadian Economy*

his government threw our doors wide open to import without setting any effective control over them. And that is why the motion we have presented today was directed against that government approach which led them to say: It is not our fault, but we are seeking solutions. The only hon. member on the other side of the House who has spoken intelligently is the hon. member for Sherbrooke (Mr. Pelletier) when he recognized that we really face problems in the field of textiles.

He even admitted that just like the hon. members of the opposition, some members of his party had to make studies and urge the government to curb imports. He even proposed that 75 per cent of the overall production should be made in Canada before allowing imports. His speech was a little bit more intelligent than some others, but even then, as I told him while he was speaking, unhappily the cabinet of this government has yet to understand that sometimes ministers have to listen to members of the opposition or to hon. members on the other side of the House who dare stand up and ask the government: Where are the problems?

As we have indicated in the four sections of our motion today on the issue of imports, it is the government leaders themselves who have allowed those imports to enter our country without restriction, and today the Minister of Finance stated that next Thursday he will make a speech to announce certain restrictions. What he forgot to say is that he himself has allowed those imports to flood our markets. The second paragraph refers to Canada Works, which is simply a band-aid program. Money is used to try to reduce unemployment. There are over one million unemployed. In my constituency, the rate of unemployment has reached 14.5 percent. On the other hand, according to statistics, 58 percent of the manpower is working. That means that 42 percent is not. Since 14 percent are on unemployment, this means that 28 percent are starving to death.

I have already talked about the milk problem. I asked a question of the parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Agriculture and he told me: "We, the government members, have solved the problem." I suggest that they are also the ones who created the problem for farmers by setting quotas and allowing massive imports: 46 million pounds of cheese were imported in Canada last year. The same government, the same liberal members, like the parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Agriculture, allowed this to happen last year. Today, they say: "We are trying to solve the problems, we are looking for answers."

This is what we are trying to convince government members to do, to stop playing politics and saying they are solving problems when in fact they are creating them. It is about time that they accept the solutions proposed by the Social Credit, such as the one that we make in the third paragraph of the motion when we talk about interest-free loans to finance governments.

I received yesterday an answer to a question I asked concerning the interest rate paid by our country since January 1, 1976 because we are still one year behind on September 30, 1977, for nine months. The country paid \$8,416,165 in inter-