

The Budget—Mr. Caouette

producing something. They would contribute to the upswing of the economy.

On reaching the age of 60, not 65, there ought to be payments of \$200 monthly to pensioners and to their spouses as well, even if the latter are only 60. Instead of receiving \$285 an old couple should be getting \$350, that is \$65 more than is paid at present by the government. This should be paid as soon as age 60 is reached.

Everybody knows, including hon. members and the ministers—especially the Minister of Finance—that people aged 60 as well as mothers of 57 or 58 should not be allowed to work. Not being as old as their husbands who are 65, these women are not eligible for anything. In the Parliament Buildings there are working women aged 55 or 57. In order to make a living, they have to wash windows and scrub floors at night in a country as rich as Canada. This is unacceptable and the Creditistes certainly do not approve of this way of serving Canadians.

Mr. Speaker, those were the remarks I wanted to make on the budget which was presented on Monday by the hon. Minister of Finance. What is the purpose of the amendments and sub-amendments? To ask for jobs. I say that, in Canada, the problem does not consist only in the creation of jobs, but in the establishment of security, independently from employment.

When I hear labour leaders speak of job security, I submit that Canadians are not concerned about job security, but about pay security. The solution lies in having the purchasing power to buy the available goods and services. Whether we recognize it or not is immaterial. There is something I mentioned at the beginning of my speech, namely that \$150 was unacceptable two years ago. Today, not only does the government accept it, but it introduces legislation to this effect. And all parties have unanimously recognized its necessity.

When we were asking for higher pensions at the time the Progressive Conservatives were in power, we had the same reaction—it was impossible. Today, we have seen them vote, to a man, in favour of the pension. As for NDP members, they have long been insisting on increased pensions. Almost every day, I hear the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre speak of veterans, of retired CN and CP employees and of all other pensioners whose benefits should be increased. He is right. Since the cost of living is going up, we should agree to increase these people's income. But do not always grab from those who own something to give those who have nothing because the end result will be that nobody will be poor, but nobody will be rich either. That is exactly what would happen.

As has been the case in various countries I have visited, people have said: Let us eliminate the big ones. Today, people in Quebec say: Let us go for large industries, let us smother them into oblivion. Once they have disappeared, we will be better off. But go out and see what happened in the countries where this has been done. Large industry has disappeared followed by the smaller. And the small one who did not have any large industry is controlled by a government which says: Power to the people.

Power to the people? You can forget about that! Power is in the hands of a few kooks who forcibly lead the

[Mr. Caouette.]

people. This is exactly what is advocated at the present time, if we are to believe some Quebec labour leaders.

Mr. Speaker—

An hon. Member: Sometimes he shows some common sense.

Mr. Caouette: The Liberal members know that I always have common sense—

An hon. Member: It is true!

An hon. Member: Oh no, not always!

Mr. Caouette: We all deplore what is happening in Quebec, but we must not forget that exactly the same things occurred 55 years ago in Russia. Unrest in Russia began with strikes, with labour leaders challenging the law, the rules, the authorities and saying to the union members: "Pay no heed!" Then the bloodshed began. This is exactly what happened in Sept-Îles last night. It was such a beautiful thing to behold: Canadians who are tearing at one another, saying: "Power to the people!"

And when these leaders take over—because it is never the people who assume power—the first thing they do is to control the courts. Castro, in Cuba, first took control of the courts, and 2,000 or 3,000 people were shot. That is their first reaction.

This is why I say that if people like Chartrand, Pepin, Laberge and Charbonneau tried in Russia, Czechoslovakia or Cuba what they have done here, within 24 hours they would be facing the firing squad!

That is the kind of system that they would give to our workers, farmers, people of Quebec and other Canadians! As for myself, I say to Canadians: Citizens of the silent majority, be a little more conscious!

We must open our eyes before it is too late. We must start by making people respect the order of justice, not that of injustice. Straight jackets in a system like ours are precisely what causes people to rebel. Let us improve the system rather than destroy it. It has been destroyed in other countries without result. On the contrary, things there are worse than they were.

If we compare farming in the USSR or in Czechoslovakia with farming based on personal initiative, we see a whole world of difference. Are we going to allow ourselves to be destroyed from within our country, as has happened in Cuba? When I hear Chartrand say: The only thing Cuba lacks is American toilet paper—I maintain it lacks something else. According to him, justice, judges, members of parliament, governments, nothing or nobody is any good any longer. Those people defy the law. Let them go and try to defy the law in the USSR or Czechoslovakia and see what happens. They would like to get hold of power for themselves, not for the working class.

Let us compare Canada with the USSR: here, the working week is 37, 38, 40, or in some cases, 42 hours. In the USSR, it has been 46 hours for the past 55 years. In Czechoslovakia, it has been 46 hours as well for the past 30 years.

In Czechoslovakia, three years ago students attempted to recover their freedom. Their rising was crushed with