

products that cannot be sold. Now, we even hear about paying the farmers so much per acre as a premium for not growing wheat. We shall soon be thinking of paying the potato growers for not growing potatoes. Then, we shall live in a well-balanced and fully just society: one where payments will encourage curtailment of production and where the number of Canadian unemployed will be maintained and increased.

Mr. Speaker, such speeches as the Speech from the Throne we have heard will not settle the problem.

At the beginning of the speech for instance, the government makes known its intention to take certain measures regarding our international relations and I quote:

—the means at our disposal for bringing these conflicts to an end are necessarily limited, but the government is making full use of its opportunities—

While the government is making full use of those means, the world crisis is getting worse. There is less and less understanding between countries.

A little further, in its Speech from the Throne, the government expresses the hope to extend franchise to the eighteen year olds who actually need the right to live rather than the right to vote. If we could give our young generation the possibility of earning an honest and honourable living, there would be less tragedies such as the ones we have to face now.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I apologize for interrupting the hon. member, but under the standing orders, the time allotted to him has expired. Unless he obtains the unanimous consent of the hon. members he cannot go on.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, I will not take undue advantage of the broadmindedness shown by the hon. members who have allowed me to carry on. It will only take me a few more minutes.

I did have quite a lot to say, but I must be brief.

I come back immediately to the franchise at 18 years of age. We are in favour of it. I would like to draw the attention of the Prime Minister in this connection. As far as 1946, when I was first elected, I asked in this house that the franchise be extended to the 18 year-old, explaining that if our young people were

old enough to be enlisted at 18 in the Canadian Army, they were old enough to vote, decide their future and what is to be done in Canada. Since then, exactly 23 years have elapsed. Therefore the Prime Minister is 23 years late on that matter.

Mr. Speaker, we can also read in the Speech from the Throne, the following and I quote:

History, geography and economics... have placed certain of our citizens at a disadvantage.

I said a few words about it a moment ago.

History, geography and economics appear to have taken such an importance that they involve every region of Canada. But in that chapter, this government states that it will take measures concerning the designated areas that suffer from serious disadvantages in the volume of employment and average income, that it will introduce legislation in order to help them. But, it does not say in what way and does not refer to any specific program. You may send fifty-year old chaps back to school to retrain them but to retrain western farmers or New Brunswick potato growers is rather difficult. On the contrary, we should produce what we can produce and, as I said earlier, help under-developed countries as much as possible, without affecting for all that the normal development of our Canadian economy.

Mr. Speaker, a little farther, further reference is made to inflation, implying that the government had fought it efficiently by levying a new tax and reducing expenditures. Only, this resulted in an increased number of unemployed in Canada, more especially in the province of Quebec, where the unemployment rate reaches about 40 to 42 per cent of the total number of jobless in Canada.

Should we hold only the federal government responsible for this situation? No. Authorities in Quebec should also take their responsibilities in that area, because some works fall under provincial jurisdiction but cannot be done by the province. Why? Because it says: Ottawa is encroaching upon the taxation field. Ottawa is responsible for the things we do not have.

But all the while Ottawa is being run down, no legislation is adopted in the province of Quebec, so much so that everyone is getting annoyed with this situation. For example, while in Quebec they keep saying