

Social Credit Monetary Policy

this very Chamber with regard to his White Paper on Tax Reform?

Mr. Gray: Mr. Chairman, this White Paper was tabled as a vehicle for discussion. It was only after discussing those ideas that the government said it would introduce a bill. It was its intention from the beginning. It is regrettable that our Progressive Conservative colleague missed this basic point.

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): I should like to take the opportunity on this opposition day, Mr. Speaker, to state certain views concerning the motion proposed by the Ralliement Cr ditiste. Allow me, Mr. Speaker, to congratulate the Revenue Minister on his excellent French. I should like to take this opportunity to discuss a few points concerning the motion, but with some reservations. I am not convinced that a Cr ditiste policy would be the best solution, but I should like to congratulate, all the same, the member for Bellechasse (Mr. Lambert). I heard this afternoon, his splendid speech, delivered in his usual simple way. Knowing well the hon. member for Bellechasse, I know his honesty. I feel I must congratulate him on his speech and the ideas which he advocates in this House. I would even go as far as to say that if all members were as honest and simple as he is, the House would fare much better. Honesty based on such simplicity would result in far more realistic and human ideas and policies. The same could not be said of the leader of the Ralliement Cr ditiste (Mr. Caouette) who from time to time is more apt to indulge in politics than to advocate truly meaningful and progressive ideas. In any case, I congratulate the hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Lambert) on his honesty and his excellent speech.

Production, distribution, consumption and purchasing power have all been mentioned. Obviously, Canada today is not lacking in production. Obviously also, distribution is possible, considering that the average citizen lacks an adequate purchasing power, or income. The consumer is hampered by this lack of purchasing power, even though there is an overproduction which could be consumed through greater purchasing power. The present situation is the result of policies laid out and promoted by this government. We could blame former governments, but we would be wrong in doing so because if we were always blaming those who have built this country, those who have done their utmost, we would be wasting our time. I think we must analyse in depth the present situation. A Liberal government has been in power in Canada since 1968. I know that the Canadian people expect a great deal from this government, taking into account a very commendable promise called the just society. As everyone else I believed in this just society. I thought that once elected, I could participate in this just society by supporting good measures and, obviously, by protesting against bad ones, because that is the role of the Opposition. However, to curb inflation, unemployment was allowed to develop, which is disastrous and harmful. In spite of inflation, we nevertheless witnessed an increase in prices, and this increase has certainly been harmful to consumers. And yet, we experienced inflation, to arrive at this unacceptable unemployment situation.

[Mr. Valade.]

Not so long ago, the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) stated that he had succeeded in checking inflation, and that from now on, he was to come to grips with unemployment.

• (8:40 p.m.)

We all know how embarrassing such a situation is for us and how painful it is in certain parts of the country, in the province of Quebec especially, and in other regions.

Apparently, the main effort was to increase welfare allowances. I think it was essential and vital to create new jobs, to make available additional capital for research which would have led to the manufacture of new products and consequently to the establishment of new industries which would have been viable in the long run.

Efforts were also made to make available substantial amounts for the establishment of new industries but, unfortunately, nothing was done to solve the problems of those already existing. And that is what really matters.

Almost every day, industries of long standing announce that they will shut down owing to certain difficulties, including imports. Has this government done enough to put a stop to competitive imports? Has it seriously studied the possibility of restricting such imports? It has certainly been normal that we import certain products, but have we conducted enough studies in order to limit imports of a given product since Canada is today in a position to produce it? I do not think we have done enough in this respect.

Such endeavours in favour of investments in new industries is a good thing in principle, but it seems to me that we have forgotten to trouble ourselves about the preservation of existing industries.

How could we forget to discuss the financial problems of the municipalities and the provinces? We must discuss in the House the financial situation of the municipalities and the provinces. We certainly want our municipalities and provinces to have the financial means to expand further.

In Quebec we had the quiet revolution which made it possible to launch a number of programs. To a certain extent those new programs caused indebtedness.

Clearly the effects were by and large the same at municipal levels; since they need additional services in order to face today's needs and want new industries, municipalities should get up a series of projects likely to supply them with an infrastructure, taking into consideration the prospect of new industries.

Today, municipalities and the population in general are being blamed for not having developed enough projects or established adequate protection against pollution.

How can these municipalities possibly build water treatment plants, in view of the present indebtedness?

The motion before the House is such as to suggest to the government the application of a Social Credit policy aimed at issuing supplementary dollars as well as cer-