

Suggested Payment to Western Farmers

but because the personality of the candidate impressed the voters in Brant. That is why the New Democratic party won the constituency of Brant, and I advise the hon. member for York South accordingly.

• (2:50 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker, the financial crisis is widespread. We have just learned that in Quebec, the Manic Automobile Company Limited, which has received many thousands of dollars in federal subsidies, has nevertheless decided to declare itself bankrupt. The Soma plant, which assembles the small Renault cars, is about to close its doors, if deficits keep on growing. Textile plants at Lachute are closing, and the same will happen in the Eastern Townships, in the Saint-Maurice region, in October 1971, and at Montmagny as well. Those are facts relating to the industrial field.

Agriculture is also facing a financial crisis. Money is lacking, not intelligence or good will, for the 800,000 unemployed want to work. The 1,500,000 students who are now seeking summer jobs would like to be part of Canadian society, but they are told: We have no money. Credits of \$27 million were voted to help our young people. What does it represent? A mere drop in the ocean!

If a war broke out tomorrow, those 1,500,000 young people would be drafted. It would no longer be a matter of \$27 or \$50 million; billions would be found to give them decent food, clothes and shelter. Ways would be devised to finance their integration into the Canadian armed forces. Yet, we do not seem able to work out ways of making them part of society in peace time. That is what is wrong with the system.

There is the same problem throughout the country. Corn producers in Ontario complain they are facing a financial crisis. Everywhere from east to west, we are told the same thing: There is a financial crisis! Instead of getting directly at the source of the financial crisis, the government is pitting one region against the other. Western farmers tell me: "If we do not have enough, it is because Ottawa is giving too much to the East". When I am in the Maritimes, I am told the same thing: "If we do not have enough it is because the federal government is giving too much to western farmers".

The hon. member for York South is well aware of the squabbling which exists in Canada and which is destroying Canadian unity. This is well known. Why? Because nobody is trying to get to the root of the evil.

The roots of this evil, Mr. Speaker, are not to be found in the pockets of millionaires. I hear members of the New Democratic Party saying: "Down with exploiters, down with big business, let us get at the rich and help the poor". If we were to collect \$200 million a month from the rich and distribute the amount among the population, what would they get? Ten dollars each. Would we make them rich? No! We would thus make the rich poorer by \$200 million. We would have more poor and this would increase the consumers' wealth.

[Mr. Caouette.]

The deep-rooted cause of the problem lies with the financial system. We will at long last have to make up our mind to correct its faults and use our national financial institution, the Bank of Canada, in a rational and effective way. In fact, nothing keeps us from doing so. But so long as we do not do that, we shall be beset by a lack of unity, quarrels, and current problems in Canada. The hon. member for York South knows what he is talking about, to be sure.

About one year ago, I was in Winnipeg where a convention of the New Democratic Party was being held in view of the recent convention at which the hon. member for York South was chosen as party leader. One evening, I was watching a news broadcast on television about the New Democratic Party convention and I heard the hon. member for York South repeat what he says quite often in this House. He was speaking against the Americans, both fists raised, and he said: Our economy is controlled by the Americans. It has to stop. A New Democratic government would put an end to any abuse and control of our Canadian economy by the Americans. The young people as well as the others were shouting their satisfaction in the arena where the convention was taking place. Everyone was happy to hear such statements from the hon. member for York South who seemed quite sincere.

In Manitoba, it just happens that the New Democratic Party is in power. The premier, the Hon. Edward Schryer sat here, as the member for Selkirk, I think. During the Winnipeg convention, the hon. Mr. Schryer spoke to the delegates. Well, the next evening, after having heard the leader of the New Democratic party on the radio, I heard the Minister of Finance in the NDP government of Manitoba who had just returned from a visit to United States—a country of exploiters who want to control the Canadian economy—say: I was exceptionally well received by the Americans who rolled out the red carpet and granted us a loan of \$50 million for the construction of a power-station in Manitoba.

Mrs. MacInnis: Why not?

Mr. Caouette: The hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway asks "why not", when we are, at this very moment, fighting against American control of our natural resources!

Either the hon. member for York South or the Minister of Finance of the new NDP government was lying the following night. One does not want any American control, while the other seeks it in order to develop the natural resources of Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, it does not mean that the NDP government is worse than the Quebec government. The Liberal premier of Quebec went to the United States to borrow \$75 million at 9 per cent interest for 25 years. Nine per cent interest for 25 years. Did the Quebec premier return from New York and Washington with whole sackfuls of American dollars? No. He came back with a slip of paper on which was written \$75 million, signed by Robert Bourassa endorsed by the Province of Quebec.