

PAUSE ET REPRISE

Mme ARIANE ÉMOND, coprésidente :

1760 Alors Mesdames, Messieurs on va reprendre l'audition des opinions. Et je vais appeler
Monsieur Clayton Joseph Grunberg. Je vais apprendre votre nom. Depuis le temps que je vous
vois. Bonsoir.

M. CLAYTON JOSEPH GRUNBERG :

1765 Okay. So I sit before you not only a very proud member of Montreal In Action, but as
your fellow citizen, and as a fellow human being of this planet. I believe you all know that I have
watched almost every minute of this process, quietly soaking in all of the knowledge and
experience of everybody around us, and I have got to thank you, first of all...

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Mme ARIANE ÉMOND, coprésidente :

Oui, continue, because it's... yes, I think it is chrono and mic... (sound technical difficulty)

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M. CLAYTON JOSEPH GRUNBERG:

So you just sat there focused and giving your utmost attention to every single person that
sat in this chair, and I believe you deserve to be recognized for that, and I really appreciate that.

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Mme ARIANE ÉMOND, coprésidente :

Merci, thank you.

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M. CLAYTON JOSEPH GRUNBERG:

1790 You're very welcome, and as well as our wonderful analysts and media staff. So I study education at McGill University, my focus is on citizenship, history, ethics, and religious culture and philosophy. I think we are witnessing here a sociological phenomenon, which is what I have coined 'the invisible crown'.

1795 We speak of systems and systematic; the word 'system' is so re-occurring, but no one ever truly names the system, right? We are discussing the nuance, the details of it and how it works, but no one has ever really pinned down and articulated what the system is.

1800 My family came to Canada in 1670. We all know that this country is a constitutional monarchy. This is not a republic, this is not a federation, this is a constitutional monarchy with a family that has ruled over this country from the very beginning, and if you trace its lineage back 37 generations of ruling, that is 1,200 years of this family. No one has ever mentioned them, no one has ever mentioned the Crown, no one has ever mentioned the history of the Crown.

1805 I have written extensive papers on the Crown's relationship with indigenous communities and the atrocious and systematic genocide of these people. It's in detail, it's in the House of Commons' notes that I have read. It's all there. It's not even up to debate.

1810 I believe this is a phenomenon that we have spent so much time, so many brilliant minds. You are all - I have read all of your biographies on the website and all of the brilliant minds that have come here, but no one has ever mentioned 'the system', and I believe that, that in and of itself, is a phenomenon that should be spoken about.

1815 Okay, so racism and systematic discrimination. You guys, I am not jealous of the task that you have to put forth some sort of plan to end racism. Like, I don't believe it is possible, first of all. It can be diminished, but it can never be eliminated. I devoted my life to education and philosophy, and I believe that's the only way, over many generations, that we will see some sort

of a change. It won't come quickly, and I believe, like many of the previous speakers, emphasized culture as perhaps the most influential medium for changing the collective consciousness of our society.

1820 Not just Montreal, but Canada, and I am not nationalist at all, I believe the whole world, and we are in a transitional period of redefining what it means to be a human being in the 21st Century metropolitan-style world, and we are witnessing the growing pains, we will say. I am very hopeful, after watching this process.

1825 I am a very cynical and critical person of the State, but from watching all - everyone was nice. You know, I expected to see perhaps some sort of - some collusion or things like that, but no, everyone is very nice, and everyone is - I can see in your hearts, in your eyes, that you care about what is going on here, and you actually should be honoured that you are part of such an historic and ongoing battle that has been going on for hundreds of years.

1830 And I believe we are actually in the last stretch of the race. Obviously, I don't want to diminish the suffering and the discrimination and the personal stories that people have had, but collectively our society, if you can contextualize it historically, our morality is refining itself at speeds never seen before.

1835 I understand that in 1982 we repatriated our Constitution, and this idea that now we are some independent country that's not true; this is propaganda put forth by the State, and we still are under the control of a European Monarchy that has ruled over the world, or at least a great part of it, for 1,200 years.

1840 I am not going to start talking about getting rid of the Crown, although I do believe that that would be a very symbolic gesture to all of the natives and indigenous communities that have suffered by this family, but I don't think that is going to happen, and I believe in forgiveness and compassion and moving forward, so as much as there is blood on their hands it is - hope is not

1845 lost, perhaps, and maybe they could even be part of moving this country towards a more refined moral identity.

So much to say, so little time.

1850 I have a recommendation; it is essentially the synthesis of all of these great ideas that have been put forth, but perhaps one that is a little more general, and as Mme. Alcindor proposed, a little bit creative and out-of-the-box.

1855 I am somebody, a bit of a dreamer, and I believe that it is through these types of perspectives and philosophies that great change takes place.

1860 So you, I implore you to be creative when it comes to your recommendations of how we should pivot our society, because the reverberations of this could echo centuries into the future, and I truly believe that you have an ability to really refine our society, depending on, we will say, how concise and hard-hitting your recommendations are.

So I beg you, sharpen the spear for when you go, because we won't have many opportunities like this again.

1865 So I believe that racism can be diminished by self-actualization. So we are all familiar with Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, the pyramid with all of the - the security and the essentials for life that remain on the bottom, and as those prerequisites become qualified you can move up to evolve as a human being, and I have never met a self-actualized person who is a bigot, who is intolerant. Usually self-actualized people are open-minded, they understand nuance, and they devote their life to helping others, regardless to gender, race, sexual orientation. They don't care; they see the person as a human being, and a human being alone.

1870 That is why I have chosen to become a high school teacher, because I believe that it will be in the classroom, over many generations, that this work will take place. It will not be a simple

1875 fix-it, although my recommendation is concise, and aims to be quick and practical. In a 2017 CBC article, it said 46 percent of Canadians are at risk of losing their jobs within the next 10 to 20 years due to automation and artificial intelligence.

1880 The specific jobs that are at the highest risk are obviously the service industry jobs, the transport jobs, the non-academic jobs we will say; the jobs that, unfortunately, we understand are filled by racialized people, immigrants, people of all sorts of classes, but it's mostly them, and as much as I believe that we should, you know, motivate people to become millionaires, I don't care about them. I care about single mothers, I care about elderly, I care about children that are in the State's control.

1885 I believe that for those people, the millionaire seeking entrepreneurs, they will be just fine. They have resiliency; the cream usually rises to the top, but I believe that we, as we speak, millions of Canadians are in poverty, are struggling, are not self-actualizing. They are wasting their time scratching to get enough money just to pay the bills.

1890 And this leads me to the next article that I would like to bring forth; it's a Global News article that came out in 2019. More than half of Canadians can't pay their bills. Half of Canadians. This is a study that surveyed something like 2,000 people, with a margin of error of, plus or minus, 2.2 to 2.9 percent, which is essentially 19 out of 20. That is an extremely accurate sondage.

1895 So we have half of Canadians that can't pay their bills, credit is rising. We have an automation problem that will probably take away a lot of the jobs that those people would need to climb out of poverty. So, we are witnessing this perfect storm taking place here, where poverty is high and the ability for people to get jobs to climb out of poverty is becoming worse and worse, and is going to perpetuate with time, and who knows how quickly the automation sequence will take place?

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I believe that even by making a recommendation to raise the minimum wage would only perpetuate the process of automation, because corporations would understand that it is more economically sound to cut their employees and bring in these new advanced machines to take these people's jobs, and again, that would only perpetuate poverty, in my opinion. These are Marx's critique of capitalism, and I believe they are more accurate today than they were during the Industrial Revolution.

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So what do we do, right? My recommendation: universal basic income, okay? Not \$10,000 a month per person, but a healthy amount, perhaps something like \$3,000 per month per person for everybody below \$50,000 a year. You can call it universal basic income, you can call it a negative tax return; you can label it however you think is the most, we'll say rhetoric-filled way to get this policy pushed forward, because those single mothers are out there tonight, and you know one way that would eliminate despair? Money in their bank accounts.

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And it is so easy to say. You know, when I have money I don't feel stressed. I feel, I feel optimistic, I am not worried about my neighbours. We understand there's correlations between nativism and immigration and economic instability; we witnessed this during the creation of this country, be it the Chinese wave of immigrants, the European wave of immigrants, the black wave of immigrants.

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There's always a new 'other', and I believe in a 21st century Montreal we are redefining what it means to be a Montrealer. It is not your typical white Anglo-Saxon, it is not your French Quebecois; it is a cultural mosaic of all sorts of people from around the world, and this will only become more prominent with time.

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In the wake of World War 2, our economic system, which is now neo-liberalism, which nobody knows about. No one knows about neo-liberalism. That's akin to living in Stalinist Soviet Union and not knowing what communism is. Wouldn't that be a phenomenon, if you met somebody there, you would say ' Where are you living? Are you living under a rock? Like, how don't you know what communism is living in Stalinist, in the Soviet Union?' But yet when you ask

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people here what is neo-liberalism maybe one out of 100 people will give you something close to laissez-faire economics, State deregulation. So, we witnessed the Great Depression, we witnessed Canadians of all walks of life suffer in that, and we learned through, we'll say refining our economic process with Keynesian-style economics, which is called the post-war consensus economics, also known as imbedded liberalism, which puts the everyday person at the priority of the Government and the economic system.

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So, you have the dichotomy between labour and capital, and those are the two classes of systems that have been analyzed and put forth of how our system works, and labour is losing its ability to fight for itself, and will only lose more and more as time goes by, with automation, and the race to the bottom, which is, again, another sociological phenomenon by which if everybody is undercutting everybody, it drives the whole wage market down, and it makes it very difficult for the everyday person to pay their bills, just to live.

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Think about it, if you were born you have to pay. Isn't that a weird thing? You are born by virtue of nothing and you have to pay, you have to work, and the system we know is broken. We have tons of experts that come - I don't want to repeat them, you know, I understand that time is running low, but I would just emphasize this one last time, is that if we take despair out of our society, people worrying about how they are going to pay their bills, crime will decrease. The pursuit of creative projects will increase. Love for your neighbour will increase. It will stimulate the economy.

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This has been proven before by John Maynard Keynes in his solution to the Great Depression; if you put the money into the hands of the population that money then gets spent back into the system and then the system grows. This trickle-down economics is propaganda that has been perpetuated by these large corporations to further deregulate our system and take Government out of finance.

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If anything the Government should be doing, it should be regulating these greedy corporations that are essentially causing austerity in our country, and I speak primarily of the

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chartered banks. They, since 1974, have had permission to create and loan our money into existence, and we owe it back to them with compounded interest? That is ridiculous if you ask me, especially when we have a Central Bank which is unique to the whole world.

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The Bank of Canada had the ability, between 1935 and 1974, to loan interest-free loans to the federal, provincial and municipal governments. We need to utilize this bank for what it is before we lose it, and we should utilize the technologies that are coming out today.

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So I don't say we should put Canadian dollars into the pockets of everyday citizens; I believe the Bank of Canada, this is the real recommendation, should create a block chain crypto currency coin that was created and controlled by the Crown, not by the private banks, by the Crown, by the people of Canada, to eliminate despair in the everyday lives of Canadians.

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Where is the money going to come from? Well, I just have to quote brilliant people like presidential candidate Andrea Yang in the United States and Bernie Sanders; they say if you put a 1 to 2 percent tax on all corporate and financial transactions - 1 to 2 percent, nothing crazy, that would pay for the whole welfare state to uplift itself and not out of the pockets of everyday Canadians, but out of the ridiculous profits that are coming out of these gigantic corporations.

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So when you make your recommendations how amazing would it be that this Committee is what ended up causing a new welfare state in Canada that ends up eliminating despair, motivating people to self-actualize as human beings, and essentially put the control of the system back into the hands of everyday Canadians - the single mothers, the immigrants that have sought a better life by moving here - and I believe that it is not something that is too crazy.

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I mean, I believe it is a little crazy, but I believe, I believe it will actually solve...

Mme MARYSE ALCINDOR, coprésidente :

Why are you pointing to me?

M. CLAYTON JOSEPH GRUNBERG:

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Nothing personal at all, it was just a hand gesture. I just think that if we dream big this is our chance. Like, this whole room could go down in history as the catalyst that moved to a neo-welfare state of Canada, and that is what attracted the world to come to here. It wasn't the Rocky Mountains, it wasn't the poutine, it was that Canada took care of its citizens, and the fact that I can come up here and criticize the Crown to the State is an incredible privilege that we should all be very grateful, because back in the day, I would not be welcomed with a glass of water and a microphone; I would be welcomed with a guillotine that was going to quiet my criticism.

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But times have changed, and that is why I am optimistic, and again, I implore you, dream big when it comes to your recommendations because if it doesn't work, well we are where we are now, but if it does work, I believe that this consultation and the OCPM could essentially go down in Canadian history as the catalyst that moves us towards a more equitable financial system for all Canadians, be it of any colour of skin, any religious denomination, and any - I don't care - every Canadian.

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I would even say extend it to newly-arrived people that haven't even received their citizenship yet. If you come to this country and you are engaging with the system the system should take care of you, and I also believe that we can have an opt-out option for people that don't want to take their universal basic income, and that could be seen as a virtuous act of prestige, which we all seek to acquire. We all seek to be prestigious in the eyes of others.

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So I believe that not all Canadians would take it; it would only be the ones that truly need it. If people abused it, well people are abusing it already, but the money would be in the account of the single mothers, the elderly, and the people who need it today as we speak, not 30 years down the line. I mean today.

And again, I understand you have allowed me 20 minutes to speak, and I truly appreciate that. Thank you very much for your time.

Mme ARIANE ÉMOND, coprésidente :

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Merci. Thank you, Mr...

M. CLAYTON JOSEPH GRUNBERG :

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Vous pouvez parler en français si vous voulez.

Mme ARIANE ÉMOND, coprésidente :

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Yes, well you don't want me to scratch your ears for...

M. CLAYTON JOSEPH GRUNBERG :

Vous parlez si bien.

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Mme ARIANE ÉMOND, coprésidente :

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Ah oui, you are very nice. The first thing - well, it's a nice discours, and maybe you are talking to converti in a way, because this kind of thing, we dream about that for years. As you know, our - how do you say - our trail is around the competencies of Montreal, you know that, but I want to say just one thing. We are deeply proud to be into this consultation, and before we hear you we want to be very creative, we want to be very targeted, and we will do our best to be out-of-the-box.

M. CLAYTON JOSEPH GRUNBERG :

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I have no doubt.

Mme ARIANE ÉMOND, coprésidente :

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Est-ce que quelqu'un a une question?

Mme JUDY GOLD, commissaire :

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As usual.

Mme ARIANE ÉMOND, coprésidente :

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As usual, Mrs. Gold. Just do it.

Mme JUDY GOLD, commissaire :

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Okay. The concept of self-actualization, I am not sure quite - do you mean the opportunity for a person to reach their full potential, is that what you are referring to?

M. CLAYTON JOSEPH GRUNBERG:

That is specifically what I am referring to.

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Mme JUDY GOLD, commissaire :

That is what you are referring to.

M. CLAYTON JOSEPH GRUNBERG:

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Which has a by-product that diminishes intolerance.

Mme JUDY GOLD, commissaire :

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I appreciate what you said, it really speaks to the inextricable relationship between socioeconomics and political conditions and discrimination; it goes hand-in-hand. Just one little comment on perhaps one of your philosophical comments that you made. You said - and economic - put money into the hands of the people, and the economy will grow, okay. You also

2090 said you will also love your neighbour. Is it that simple, do you think? Maybe it's - we may need another forum to answer this question, but...

M. CLAYTON JOSEPH GRUNBERG:

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Of course.

Mme. JUDY GOLD:

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That is my only reflection on what you said. Is it that simple in terms of loving your neighbour? The economy, perhaps, but loving your neighbour... I just wonder.

M. CLAYTON JOSEPH GRUNBERG:

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Well that, again, goes back to the educational pursuit of self-actualization. I think the more that we appreciate the psychological aspects of our reality, we become less offended at the behaviours of others because we understand most of the time it is projection, you shouldn't take it personally, and often it is just miscommunication.

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So I truly do believe that, I mean it is cliché to say, but yes. Yes, love, love is a by-product of self-actualization, and self-actualization is only obtained when you have time, you have resources, you have the ability to educate yourself, learn. If it was up to me, all education in Canada would be free. You would actually have a subsidy, and I am a grateful student of McGill that has received a lot of money and help to go back to school to become a teacher, and I am

2115 very grateful, and I implore my fellow citizens to take advantage of that, but I would even push that into a further and more intensive pursuit to self-actualize the society, because I mean I have never met a guru or an enlightened person who is a bigot, and maybe they exist in 7 billion people, but, but it's...

Mme JUDY GOLD, commissaire :

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Personally, I just want to thank you for your presentation.

M. CLAYTON JOSEPH GRUNBERG:

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Well, thank you very much, and again I thank you guys so very much, and if it comes - I understand this is a municipal recommendation, but nothing is stopping you from making a declaration to the whole country, because victims of racism in Manitoba, it's the same victims of racial discrimination in Montreal. That doesn't matter to me, I don't care where you are living. So we need to take this - and Montreal is an extremely respected city in the world, so this could put a chain of events that go to other countries that - especially if it works.

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If we see that our economy grows, other countries will follow suit, but there has to be a first country that does it, and if you look at the history of Canada and it's a welfare state it would make perfect sense that Canada is the place to do it, and it would be - I understand maybe this wasn't a consultation on economics and things like that, but again, creativity, right? We understand indirect causations, and if perhaps it is as simple as just putting \$3,000 a month - not in Canadian dollars, but in a crypto currency that is controlled by...

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Mme ARIANE ÉMOND, coprésidente :

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The Crown.

M. CLAYTON JOSEPH GRUNBERG:

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...the Crown, the Bank of Canada, where all interest is re-put into social programmes, and it is funded by a small increase in taxes in the financial and corporate transactions, and I don't think it is that complicated.

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It all exists, and somebody is going to eventually do it, and it would be wonderful if it emerged from this conversation, and this is not my conversation. I am just one of many, many people that have brought great ideas forward, and if, if people had the financial freedom to pursue their things, a lot of the people that came today would be more impactful, so it would create a ripple of empowerment into the, into the hands of the citizens and not the State.

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You have 25,000 employees just in the Municipal Government of Montreal.

I understand you have given me more time than most, and I appreciate it. So, I thank you once again, and I will remember this for the rest of my life.

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Mme ARIANE ÉMOND, coprésidente :

Merci beaucoup.

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M. CLAYTON JOSEPH GRUNBERG :

You're welcome.

Mme ARIANE ÉMOND, coprésidente :

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Bonne soirée.