

*Proposed Committee on Unemployment*

Labour, United States, delivered at the convention of the Congress of Industrial Organizations at Cleveland, Ohio, on November 18, 1953 in which he made reference to President Eisenhower's attitude toward union and labour as well. He said:

Amidst all the speculation here and at other labour meetings over what is President Eisenhower's attitude towards unions, my advice to you is to keep clearly in mind the President's own words:

"I pledge that I will support and strengthen, not weaken, the laws that protect the American worker. I will defend him against any action to destroy his union or his rights. I will enlist every resource—of private industry and of the federal government—to protect him against the awful consequences of depression and joblessness.

"I will work unceasingly to build an economy that will maintain for him a high level of wages with steady purchasing power so he and his family can share fully in the comforts of American living . . ."

I think that fairly well sums up the point of view which we as Social Crediters hold. I believe that labour and business must remain happily married for good or both will become poorer, and that fair wages are just as important as are fair profits. Any politician who endeavours to drive those two enterprises asunder is remiss in his contribution to the economic life of this nation. If both labour and business realize this fact I believe it will provide the necessary background for an improved free enterprise system, which is the only way of maintaining our people in a manner to withstand the coming onslaught on our economic life which is already being engineered in the matter of world trade.

I think it is about time both labour and business united and pointed their index finger at the real source of the trouble, namely the impotent and unenlightened fiscal policy of this government, which is endangering our private enterprise system and putting us deeper and deeper into socialistic measures. That policy is a tax policy which harasses business and workers. The credit policies of this government discourage private investment and encourage government spending.

We believe that both labour and business should make a frontal attack on those policies, for they have resulted in the dwindling purchasing power of the earned dollar. The government policies are geared for ever-increasing interference with the normal development of business, and have failed to implement steps leading to convertibility of currency in international trade. The jungle of every kind of tax conceivable has psychologically destroyed and is rapidly destroying the initiative of business for further investment. I believe that those policies are closely related to the unemployment situation in Canada.

[Mr. Holowach.]

In passing I should like to emphasize the fact that a little bit of blame should be laid on the press of this country. I believe that there exists no better instrument for defending democracy than our free press; but they have failed to draw the attention of the public of Canada to discrepancies in the matter of government fiscal policies, thereby discouraging the one force that could call a halt to this situation.

As Social Crediters, Mr. Speaker, we have always championed the cause of private enterprise, and we make no distinction between business and labour. We have repeatedly championed the removal of the ridiculous fiscal policies and agreements on international trade which have shackled our export business. We are the only ones who have a clear-cut and simple method of supplementary purchasing power without further taxation which would further cripple the incentive of our people. We have advanced these things not only because they are economically right but because they are morally right.

I should like to ask the government what is its policy with regard to alleviating the present scandalous situation in the matter of unemployment; what thought is being given to an immediate start on a vast public works program to absorb the growing number of unemployed; what inducement is being given for an immediate start on the St. Lawrence seaway, the trans-Canada pipe line, the building of a trans-Canada highway from Winnipeg through Saskatoon, Edmonton, Edson, Jasper and the Yellowhead route; what thought has the government given to a thorough revision of the whole Canadian taxation structure in order to eliminate all those taxes which are restrictive to productive enterprise as a further stimulus for reinvestment, and what encouragement is being given to the Canadian people to share in the home and export markets created by the products of our farms, factories and mines?

I believe that the outstanding feature at this time—and unemployment is only one of the symptoms—is a situation where we have idle merchants standing side by side with unemployed workers and, at the same time, ever-mounting inventories of goods and services which the people need and have produced but cannot acquire because they have no purchasing power.

In conclusion I say that the problem of unemployment is clearly one of an economic nature, and that the dangerous situation of this period is the taxation structure which presently exists. Unless unemployment is