

*Labour Conditions*

That man, who has been affected to a job for many years, is afraid of tomorrow because he knows quite well that, with the present economic concept, machines will take his place.

Only the government can change the situation. Without buying power, he will have to run about, come and go to earn a living. Insecurity is even greater around 40 or 45. In fact, it is impossible for a Canadian worker of 45 to find another job in industry.

I hope we will consider that problem together and ask ourselves the following question: Is it possible to further improve the present economic system? Can we still believe in the possibility of full employment?

There are those who claim that everyone should have a job and that full employment is possible. As for me, I say that if we need full employment, it is because our economic system has been a complete failure since that is neither an end in itself nor the purpose of our economic system. The purpose of our economic system is to put at the disposal of the people of the world, of a country all the goods, all the services they have a right to expect. But it is the aim of our economic system to obtain those goods and services at the lowest price possible with the minimum effort. If in our current mechanical evolution we can foresee the day when men will have to participate less and less in that production, we must then turn our aspirations toward other horizons. It means that taking part in work is not the solution. It is not a matter of working more. Nowadays, what counts is to train school teachers, because they are the greatest need of this country.

Nowadays, we have to face the problem of leisure, which is perhaps the most serious problem confronting us. We must prepare the people to make use of their brains instead of their arms, and to use their brains to put it to the service of the community.

In our present production system, the cost of labour represents a part of the cost of production. Now, the purchasing power gained by the workers through their active participation in production has always been inadequate to obtain, to purchase that production.

I know that the philosophy of Social Credit has been rejected by many hon. members of this house. I urge them to consider with real sincerity the problem as it really exists. It is not a matter of trying to get them to accept our philosophy, I am only asking them

to be realistic and wonder whether through economic planning, through increase in number of plants, through regimentation of labour, we are actually coming any closer to the solution of the problem facing us. Is a deficient production the real problem?

In my opinion, we will not even come near finding the answer to this problem as long as we consider that we must work in order to secure all those things. I know that there are many more goods that we could produce. Our inventors could discover a great many opportunities for employment and a wealth of goods which we could produce in order to raise our standard of living.

Mr. Chairman, Canada is experiencing a serious unemployment crisis. This is the first opportunity offered the house to discuss at length the unemployment situation. Much could be said on such a matter, and there are other members wishing to speak on it. But I submit that the present unemployment problem in Canada can be solved through the development of our secondary industry. If we keep on accepting to live in accordance with our present economic thinking, then it is clear that the sole and only solution open to us is the development of our secondary industry.

How will we go about the matter of building up a secondary industry which for all practical purposes is non-existent in Canada? Will we rely solely on private industry? Or are we going to develop it through government planning, with the government, since it is the sponsor, meddling in it and controlling it?

There must be some sort of compromise available to us, and I believe that an answer could be worked out, implemented and supported by men of good will.

I submit that failing to conceive this task on another basis, in another line of thought than the one we are favouring in this corner of the house, the government and all classes and organizations in our society will have to see to the expansion of our secondary industry. For instance, the government will have to keep a close watch over all items imported from all the other countries in the world. It will have to stimulate, to initiate and, I would even say to suggest, in some cases, what our secondary industry should produce.

I admit that the government did make an effort in that respect, and I should, more par-