

I want to emphasize this point further by quoting from the Prime Minister. Speaking at that same convention he used these words:

The era of freedom will be achieved only as social security and human welfare become the main concern of men and nations.

Those are fine words. He went on:

I would mention the following as a national minimum: useful employment for all who are willing to work.

All right; I am quite willing to accept that. But let us see what is taking place in practice. This may be only a slight indication, but I think it shows the attitude of the Minister of Labour (Mr. Mitchell) towards this national minimum of every person having the right to work. On April 18, after the hon. member for Cape Breton South (Mr. Gillis) had asked the Minister of Labour some questions about the employment of persons from Nova Scotia in other parts of Canada, the hon. member for St. John-Albert (Mr. Hazen) asked this supplementary question:

Will transportation be provided by the government to the place of employment for persons in New Brunswick who are unemployed to accept employment that is offered elsewhere?

The Minister of Labour replied:

As my hon. friend is well aware, my department is not in the business of providing Cook's tours for everybody in Canada.

That is how they implement their promise of the right to work and the right to full employment for all the people.

In addition to the promise of full employment there was also the definite promise of social security for all. I have already quoted and I continue to quote from the Prime Minister's speech in 1942:

It is necessary that social security and human welfare should be expressed in definite terms.

Those words were quoted as recently as May 9 at Niagara Falls by the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Martin), and he added these words of his own:

If we are to justify some of the promises and assertions we made during the war it is necessary that Canada as a nation enact a programme of social welfare.

I agree with him. If we are to carry out the promises that were made, the government, according to the minister, should enact a programme of social welfare now. But what do we find in the budget? Look through the budget and through the whole social security programme of the government, and you will find that when it comes to implementing the promises made and repeated so often, only as recently as May 9 by the Minister of National

Health and Welfare, even the minister himself is a little doubtful as to how well the government are succeeding, because he said:

Some people may say some of these objectives have not been realized, but it is important to have a statement from the head of a government in these terms.

I agree that it is important to have that statement on social security in these terms, but I contend it is far more important that the government should now be presenting their social welfare legislation to the house so that the curtain will at least be lifted a little to give us a peek into this great new era of freedom promised by the Prime Minister in 1942. But so far what have we got? We have a mystical resolution on the order paper which promises something for old age pensioners, but no amount of prying or questioning can bring out what is going to be done. The government's programme seems to be well hidden, although some of the newspapers seem to be better informed on it than members of this house. So far as a broad general programme of social security covering the needs of certain classes of people, whom I shall mention later, is concerned, practically nothing has been done so far and nothing is in prospect. What the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) laid down when he said that that era of freedom will be achieved only as social security and human welfare become the main concern of many nations was in reality the basis of a socialist society, because it is the objective of a socialist government that laws shall be made for the benefit of society as a whole. Under a capitalist economy laws are made to protect the rights of capitalists, to protect the rights of privileged classes, and it is not surprising that in the house we hear hon. members who believe in capitalism make long speeches for certain classes of people; but when it comes to making laws for society as a whole, when human welfare becomes the objective of the programme, then you have socialism in practice. The Prime Minister laid down a socialist theory; the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Martin)—as recently as May 9—is beginning to doubt whether we are carrying that objective out as we should. We shall have more reason to doubt before we are much older.

I wish to deal with another point which I think is important, namely, the repeated references which have been made by members of the Progressive Conservative party, and particularly by the official financial critic of that party, to what they call the middle class. The hon. member for Muskoka-Ontario (Mr. Macdonnell) was the one who introduced it in