

Reconstruction and reform in Canada's social life will not come from the setting up of departments. First of all, this department must have the desire to change what is wrong in our economy. Then it must have the power to change that, a power given by a democratically elected government. Unless there is a change in the viewpoint of the industrial life of this country, such departments as these will be useless. Unless there is a change in the motivated force of our economic life I can see nothing but a return after this war to want and insecurity which will lead ultimately to another war. Under the economic system under which we have operated in this and other countries where irresponsible private enterprise and monopolistic organizations control the economic life of peoples and make money out of war, wars will continue. One would imagine, from reading such bills as have been before the house, that the Canadian people are undergoing a change; that there is a new outlook on life in Canada. Unfortunately, however, when we see what is going on in the industrial life of the country, we find private enterprise so strongly entrenched—

Mr. MacNICOL: You are talking about something you know nothing whatever about.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: That is splendid. The hon. member for Davenport has expressed on other occasions the view that he does not think—

Mr. MacNICOL: You are talking about something you know nothing about. We have heard that before.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: The hon. member has told us before who, in his opinion, should be sitting here.

Mr. MacNICOL: We are perfectly fed up with that. You may know something about schoolteaching but nothing about industry.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: The hon. member does not think anyone should sit in the House of Commons except those who have provided jobs in the past.

Mr. MacNICOL: You have never provided jobs to anyone but the man cutting the lawn. You should talk about something you know something about.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: That is what I am doing. I am talking about the depression and about unemployment, about young men who could not make a living on the land, who could not find work—thousands of them—and about the million people who were on relief under the industrial set-up of the country prior to the war, and I claim that all this is

unnecessary in a land where there is such abundance as exists in Canada. I am sorry to see that the trend of private enterprise in these days is rather toward the continuation of the strengthening of their position. Now, when they find the profit motive does not work, they want the guarantee of the state to maintain them in their position. Several glaring examples of this appeared in the evidence given before the committee on reconstruction. I should like to quote the following:

It might be pointed out that some firms engaged in war industry at the present time are faced with the element of uncertainty because the dominion government has not, as yet, laid down a clear policy concerning what is to become of dominion-owned machinery and equipment that is presently in the hands of these companies for their war work.

One such company, in a brief presented to the reconstruction council stated categorically that if they were allowed to purchase these machine tools, equipment and raw materials in their possession for a nominal sum on proof that it would be put to productive use, they could guarantee employment for the 480 of their present employees who wish to remain with them after the war, as well as between 250 and 300 personnel who will be returning to them from the armed services.

Several instances of that kind came before our committee. The Canadian people have the resources wherewith to provide themselves with the food, the clothing, the shelter and the various services which can be made use of in this country. They have the resources to provide themselves with all that they need. These resources exist in abundance in Canada. Knowing this, the Canadian people will not tolerate a return to the conditions that have prevailed heretofore. Our social security and welfare will depend upon our ability to distribute these goods and services to the people who need them for their use. What has happened in the past? These natural resources of this great country have been handed over to irresponsible private enterprise and in many cases monopolistic organizations have exploited them at their own desire. I refer to Beauharnois, to the mineral areas of Canada, to the developments of International Nickel, to the vast timber limits handed over to private enterprise, and more recently to such things as power development and the development of oil rights in the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

Until these natural resources, which we hold to be the birthright of the Canadian people, are developed by the people themselves as something which they own, through either state or cooperative organization, to be used by the people themselves and not merely for the purpose of producing profits, where the