

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. ROWE: He has never been on it yet.

Mr. BRACKEN: In any event, this is what the writer said: "The Minister of Reconstruction was not a success as a prophet; he could not prophesy correctly even after the event had happened." When he said that I am sure he was thinking of some of the prophecies of the Minister of Reconstruction about how soon we were going to have the housing problem solved in Canada.

Then came the fourth speech from the throne. It came from the representative of the real King. After the other three had spoken, there was not much more to be said; nevertheless I extracted these things from the throne speech, things the government had written into it. It told us that we had had a war; that now the war has been over for two years, we were going to start paying for it. In one paragraph it told us that Canada was prosperous, but by the time the end of the paragraph was reached it said she was not prosperous but was suffering from complications in her exchange position.

Then it told us that the government believed in freedom of trade. At the same time it told us that they were going to bring in a higher form of protection, namely, putting an embargo on the products of other countries coming into this country. It also told us that the government believed in mutual assistance. Then it said that we were too poor to continue giving mutual assistance. It was on both sides of the question. Then it told us that the government was going to proceed to build a lot of low-rental houses. It told us that in the face of the statement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. St. Laurent) that no government of which he was a member would ever engage in a plan for subsidized housing. How the government reconciles those two positions I do not know. Then the speech told us that Princess Elizabeth had been married. It ended up by saying that people in Canada would have to pay in taxes all the expenses of the government. That was the fourth speech from the throne.

As I said the other day, there were important public issues which were not emphasized in this speech from the throne, issues that the common people of the country are face to face with every day. I enumerated some of them: the rising cost of living, the unrest among workers, the plight of the veterans, the perilous state of agriculture. I should have added one other, the confusion and chaos in the business world. I wish to touch on these things briefly before I proceed to the

other questions that the government considers of major importance at this session.

Is it or is it not a fact that we have a rising cost of living today? Government statistics tell us it is up by forty-five per cent over pre-war years; that the cost of food is up nearly seventy per cent. Most people believe that the cost of living is up very much more than the first of these figures. The question arises, why do prices rise? I suggest that prices rise when we have too little goods for the money available. And prices rise when we have too much credit and currency for the goods available. And I say that is the condition we have in Canada today. I charge the government of this country with being responsible for both. I charge them with being responsible for policies which have expanded our credit and our currency at a more rapid rate than their control policies have permitted goods to be produced and retained in this country. When you get a condition like that, a small amount of goods in relation to the credit and currency available, nothing can happen but that prices will go up. That is fundamental; it is a fundamental criticism of the results of this government's fiscal and control policies.

If you put a thousand dollars worth of goods on one side and ten men on the other with \$100 each to buy the goods, what happens to prices? They remain steady. But, Mr. Speaker, lend \$100 more to each of these ten men or let them get it any way they wish so that they have \$2,000 in credit or currency to buy \$1,000 worth of goods, what will happen? Nothing can happen but that prices will rise.

According to our calculations, this government has been responsible for increasing the credit and currency of this country twice as fast as its control policies have permitted the production and retention of goods, with the inevitable results we see about us today.

As to the unrest among workers, the fact is that in recent years we have had ten times as many strikes, or rather ten times as much loss of time in Canada from strikes as we had before the war. We have had rising prices up to now. And with the government's present policies as just announced, there can be no other result than that prices will continue to rise. In such circumstances more strikes are in the offing. When prices rise, when the cost of living goes up, people with fixed or small incomes protest; nothing can happen but that unrest should prevail among them. And unrest will be shown in an epidemic of strikes. The only permanent remedy is to get more production. If we get more production we