

Mr. SPEAKER: I have ruled already as to the practice and custom of the house.

Mr. TUCKER: I made up my mind that on this occasion I would follow the precedent established by all members of the C.C.F. who have read their speeches ever since they came here or at least for the past two or three years. I watched the leader of the C.C.F. read the speech he made in this debate, and I decided that if that were going to be done by the C.C.F. party and by the leader of the C.C.F. party, I had as many rights as the leader of the C.C.F. party and that if he were to be permitted to read his speech, I could read mine. It is the first time in my life I have read a speech in this house. If I am to be called to order for reading my speech then I insist that the members of the C.C.F. party be made to deliver their speeches and not read them. Just because they can hold them far off and follow them with their finger is no excuse. I watched the leader of the C.C.F. party following his speech the other day with his finger, and now we are greeted with the spectacle of one of his followers raising a point of order because I am reading a speech, something which I have never done before. I refuse to use any subterfuge. I was following my notes; I was reading my speech, but I read it on purpose partly, I may say, with the thought in mind that if objection were made it would bring this matter to a head. I am going to ask that the C.C.F. members be made to deliver their speeches in future without reading them.

Mr. REID: The point of order was raised in order to spoil your speech.

Mr. TUCKER: So far as the situation confronting this country to-day is concerned, we have the alternative of the Liberal party which proposes to go ahead and provide the economic security which the country is willing to support by taxation. It is going to base that economic security upon world trade, which is the only sound basis for it in the long run. I have pointed out already that the C.C.F. party are making promises that they will raise wages. If they raise wages, they will raise the cost of production of the goods made in this country. That will raise further the cost of production of the farmers. By action of import and export boards, imports then will be excluded, and the result will be that other countries will be unable to buy our exports. That will do more to destroy the economic production of this country than high tariffs ever did.

They will destroy our exports, and then they turn around and say that they are going to buy those products from the farmers at

higher prices. They are holding out that inducement. That is the situation; that is the phoney policy which is being put up to our farmers. They are going to raise wages, which of necessity will raise the cost of production of the farmer. Then in the next breath they say that they are going to promote industry by protecting the production of industry by import boards. This will exclude imports from coming into our country, and then what will happen to the production of the farmers?

I suggest that the inevitable result will be the establishment of a self-contained economy in Canada. We, of all countries, depend most upon exports, upon what we can sell other nations, and yet here is a programme to set up a self-contained economy. If they do not intend to set up a self-contained economy they cannot possibly raise the cost of production in this country by raising wages. If the cost of production is raised of everything the farmer produces, how can he be expected to compete in the markets of the world? Therefore they must intend to subsidize the farming industry and, in doing that, they will have to tax heavily. As I pointed out, these taxes will of necessity fall upon those who are left to run their own affairs, those in receipt of incomes. It will simply mean that the farmer will have his markets destroyed and that all he will have will be the promise of higher prices for the things he will not be able to sell, to be paid by himself in higher taxes. These products will simply pile up. A situation based upon such plans is bound to collapse.

It is on that basis that they have gone throughout this country holding out the hope of higher wages and higher pay to everybody who works, holding out the hope of higher rewards to the farmers and everybody else. They know very well that to carry out their promises Canada would have to reorganize her whole economic set-up on a self-contained basis. It would mean the replacing of at least three-quarters of our farmers in other work which they would not be able to do as well as what they are now doing. That is the fallacious system upon which the C.C.F. policy is based.

So far as I am concerned, I believe that the Liberal party will reestablish the returned soldier as well, if not better than any other country. I believe that we have a leader who has the admiration of every other leader in the whole world. He will be able to make a great contribution to establishing an international system which will guarantee the winning of a peace that will be just and lasting.