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injustice to anyone, or to have an injustice done to anyone. In this matter of the cost of living, their primary interest is not in prosecutions. It is in the prevention of the need for prosecutions, by preventing the evil of exploitation.

Prosecutions, where necessary, can be instituted, as some already have been, under the Combines Investigation Act. The Commissioner of the Combines Investigation Act has been told that, as a part of government policy, it is the wish of the administration that this Act should be vigilantly administered. He has been told that he and the members of his staff will be expected to exercise, to the full, the authority given under the provisions of the Act where there is justification for bringing its provisions into operation.

The Minister of Finance has already announced that the Wartime Prices and Trade Board has been requested to examine further into recent sharp price increases to see whether, under the provisions of the Prices Board order, there are grounds for launching exemplary prosecutions against persons for selling at prices that are higher than is just and reasonable.

The Commissioner of the Combines Act and also the Prices Board will continue to function independently of the House of Commons Committee. The Parliamentary Committee will not be expected to act either for or in the place of any other board or agency of government or of the state. The Committee will not be in the nature of a prosecuting tribunal. It will be a fact-finding body. Its functions will be to ascertain the facts with regard to situations where, today, because of insufficient knowledge of the facts there is a possibility of the most effective action, on the part alike of parliament and of the government being thwarted or delayed.

Once again, let me say that in those classes of social evils which affect the happiness of homes and the well-being of human lives, publicity is generally much more effective as a remedy than penalty. With an open forum before which the facts of an existing situation can be established, there should be an end to allegations and recriminations between political parties on a matter of so great concern to the people of our country as a whole. Is it too much to expect that with the opportunity thus afforded, there will be a common endeavour on the part of members of all Parties in Parliament to regard the general interest as supreme?

No Panacea for Cure of Social Ills

Let me add this further word. The most zealous of social workers have long since learned that there is no panacea for the cure of social ills. To this truth, the Committee of Investigation, when established, will be no exception. So long as prices are rising everywhere else in the world, nothing can be expected to stop entirely the rise in prices in Canada. We believe, however, that the mere existence, to say nothing of the work of the Committee, will help

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to slow down the increases; and in cases where, for example, there has been or is hoarding or profiteering, to effect a reduction in prices.

The cure for high prices—the real cure—is production, not only in Canada, but in countries with which Canada trades. That is why the restoration of Europe matters so much to us all—to our daily lives—to our cost of living. What we are living through now is really another phase of the war; the weapons are different but the struggle is still going on. All experience goes to prove that no country can hope to find permanent economic health in a sick world. That is one reason why Canada looks so favourably upon the Marshall Plan. In the restoration of starving peoples and devastated nations, we must continue to lend what aid we can.

In our present anxieties, it may help us to retain a true sense of proportion, and at the same time of pride, if we do not forget that Canada today is the happiest country in all the world, and that this fortunate position is not wholly the result of our geographical position and our natural resources. Not a little of the credit may properly be claimed for the policy of relatively rigid price control pursued through six years of war, and the policy of orderly and gradual de-control followed through two years of transition, by a Liberal government.