

*The Address—Mr. Drew*

people's pockets dollars which were not needed, in addition to the very large number of dollars it needed for the tasks which lie before us.

The government has also restricted credit. Certainly some limitation on the pumping of new currency into circulation by the government was urgently needed; but that was a very different thing from suddenly reversing the whole course of government policy and imposing at the same time extremely severe credit controls on purchasers, and also severely limiting the bank credit of manufacturers, distributors and retailers providing those things upon which the purchasing power of the public had also been so greatly reduced. It was a double squeeze; it was a squeeze on those producing and on those receiving. While the same restrictions on credit do not apply to those purchasing food, they did apply to the farmers, in so far as the extension of credit to the farmers of this country at this time was concerned.

This double squeeze had other consequences, in addition to the difficulties it presented to the people who needed those things. It has also had a very serious effect upon building new homes, and the furnishing of homes, both new and old. The credit restrictions, at the level at which they were imposed, and under the terms under which they were imposed, did place restrictions upon very real necessities such as washing machines, refrigerators, automobiles and other electrical and mechanical equipment of that kind. It made it extremely difficult for many people to proceed with their building. In certain statements made on behalf of the government recently I have noticed references which conveyed the impression that automobiles were luxury equipment. In a great many places in this country today automobiles have become an absolute necessity if people are going to get to their work. There is no other way by which they can get to the jobs which need to be done in the interests of the whole defence production of this country. When we are emphasizing the desirability of electrifying homes both urban and rural it hardly seems to be the time to make it difficult to furnish these homes with the one means of heat and power that most of these homes have available.

What is a more important proposition in its immediate effect is that it has created very serious areas of unemployment throughout this country. This is a positive result that the government certainly has achieved. I am not suggesting for one moment that this was the result the government intended, but a government which has been pumping inflation

into this country through currency and otherwise for years suddenly reversed its course and went to the extreme the other way, and we are feeling the consequences right across Canada today. What is the government's answer to this situation? The government tells the people that they must produce more to meet inflation. What is the use of telling a worker in Windsor, Vancouver, or any other city in Canada today where he is now out of work that he must produce more? What chance has he to produce more? He has not even got a job at the moment in the place where he has been working. What is the use of telling him that inflation is the result of too many dollars chasing too few goods? They know that in their particular occupations there are too many goods waiting for dollars that are not at the moment available.

While there are areas of unemployment throughout the whole of Canada as a result of the government's action, it is most acute in Windsor, and what has happened there illustrates in a very forceful way what is happening in many other parts of Canada now. In Windsor of course, with its great concentration of factories producing automobiles and automobile parts, they have felt the impact of this restraint more severely perhaps than in any other one part of Canada. What answer does the government give to their problem? What hope do they offer people affected in that way? They make the suggestion that they will be generous enough to ease the facilities provided at the border so that these people who are out of work in Canada can leave the country to go to the United States. That is the solution they offer to people who are out of work as a direct result of the misapplied policy which this government has adopted.

No matter how little this may affect any other part of Canada, it can surely be a source of very little pride or satisfaction to any Canadian that the best suggestion the government can make to those it has put out of work is to tell them that the solution is to leave their own country. We have been told that we need more people in Canada. I believe we do. The minister of immigration says that we do. If this is the best the government of Canada can do to deal with the hardship resulting from its own action, then the least that can be said is that it illustrates very forcefully the conflicting ideas within the government itself and the state of utter confusion in which it finds itself in tackling the most serious domestic problem we face.

If anything could more emphatically emphasize the necessity for a removal of these restrictions, it is the shameful situation in regard to housing which has resulted from