

*Northern Affairs*

So I think the suggestions of the council are entirely relevant to this situation, in that if the people of Canada are to be urged to produce and to put all their efforts into it, then someone had better be given the responsibility of checking whether they are producing the right things and whether someone will want it when they have produced it. I think the Economic Council is well worth the money that is being spent on it, but there is not much use using the best brains in our country on the Economic Council, which makes certain recommendations, if we ignore those recommendations thereafter. I suggest that to a large extent, at least in agriculture, this is what has happened. If I am wrong, I stand corrected, but this is my observation.

About two years ago last winter a conference on agriculture was held in Banff. Experts from all over the world arrived to participate in it. At that time the council told us the same things which we find now in its fifth report. As nearly as I can observe, very little has been done in the intervening two years. If it is essential that we give more education to our youngsters, and the council says it is, then the government should follow this up if it considers the Economic Council to be a good institution.

I did not particularly want to make a plea today for agriculture. That is not my purpose. My purpose is to plead that when we have a commission with the prestige of the economic council that we act on their recommendations. If we are to act on those recommendations we will have to do something about what I may describe as the market economy, that is we must alter the market economy. We cannot urge sugar beet growers in Ontario, as we have done in the times past, in the general direction of efficiency and say to them, "you have to be better at producing sugar beets" and then have such small control over the economy as to allow some sugar company to put them all out of business within six months. It just does not make sense. This report suggests greater efficiency by the farmers and more productivity per man. It tells us how much we have increased productivity per man in Canada in the last 15 or 20 years. It points out that in the area where I farm, our increased productivity per man has been higher than in some other parts of Canada. But I can also say there is a lack of markets, and productivity per man will go down because there are no markets to absorb the particular item we are producing.

Perhaps some of you may have heard about the side hill dodger, who can only go round and round the hill all the time because one of his legs is shorter than the other. We are doing the same in our approach to our farm economy, the marketing aspects of which are being ignored. These are the points I wanted to make.

Item agreed to.

Public Service Staff Relations Board—  
25. Administration, \$1,409,000.

Item agreed to.

**The Acting Chairman (Mr. Richard):** This disposes of the estimates of the privy council.

Resolutions adopted in committee of supply this day reported and concurred in.

**The Acting Chairman (Mr. Richard):** Order. It being five o'clock the house will now proceed to the consideration of private members business as listed on today's order paper, namely private bills, and public bills.

**NORTHERN AFFAIRS****PROVISION FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF ALASKA-YUKON HIGHWAY AUTHORITY**

**Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer)** moved the second reading of Bill No. C-9, to provide for the establishment of the Alaska-Yukon highway authority (Alaska highway).

He said: Mr. Speaker, I would be quite happy to allow the bill to pass without debate. I say that because this is a very important bill, one which has been before this house in its present form several times. I would remind hon. members that in the twenty sixth parliament it was bill C-106 and in the twenty seventh parliament bill C-112. It concerns me very much that members of the house, particularly hon. members on the government side of the house, do not take more notice of this very important topic. As evidence that it is important I would just remind the house that it has been given unanimous support and approval by every chamber of commerce in the province of Alberta, northern Saskatchewan, northeastern British Columbia and central British Columbia. It has been given support particularly by the Montana Chamber of Commerce and many other local chambers of commerce throughout the central northwest part of the United States.

• (5:10 p.m.)

Beyond that, Mr. Speaker, it has drawn the attention of United States legislators. I have