

and projects correctly, to do the things in fact that I think should be done. There are major projects under way in this area of measuring productivity, industrial reclassifications and so on.

The first stage—I am not so sure if it is the first stage, but one stage of it has recently appeared through re-estimation of the industrial production index. This is a step forward and the D.B.S. has outlined further improvements that it is undertaking—so that the information, as presently available, is not sufficient. It seems that the D.B.S. is forging ahead. I am not sure, I could not say whether in fact they have now the resources to do this as quickly as it should be done.

Mr. BELL (*Saint John-Albert*): Would you favour a more simple method of reporting from D.B.S. to the bodies of consumers, about foods for example?

Professor NEUFELD: I would favour it very strongly, not only about foods but in the general area of what is happening in prices. I think there should be a great improvement in the information that the consumer has, to help him determine what his views should be and what is happening on prices.

Now that I am on the Economic Policy Committee of the Consumers' Association of Canada, I think that I am speaking for the group when I say that the consumers should be better informed.

Mr. BELL (*Saint-John Albert*): I was going to ask this question before you gave me that information. What do you think? Would you care to express yourself on these consumers' boycotts, these voluntary boycotts, of which there has been some talk in Ottawa and elsewhere?

Professor NEUFELD: I think they are futile. I cannot see how they serve any purpose.

Mr. BELL (*Saint John-Albert*): Would you object to them from a free enterprise nature or is it just in their ultimate effect?

Professor NEUFELD: It is just that they cannot possibly produce any significant effect, with the possible exception that you might say that they will have the effect of encouraging more public discussion of the issue.

Mr. BELL (*Saint John-Albert*): In other words, if some publicity were given to the fact that meat prices were outrageously high, and everybody switched over to fish, this would help British Columbia and Newfoundland, and then the prices of fish would go up correspondingly?

Professor NEUFELD: Perhaps not correspondingly, but this kind of action might reveal—I am not saying that it would, but it might—that there were really good reasons why the price of meat is high. Also, it would perhaps make it clear to people that it is a very, very good idea to eat more fish and less meat.

Co-Chairman Senator CROLL: You have scored, Mr. Bell.

Mr. BELL (*Saint John-Albert*): In other words, to try to sum up, you do not feel that these voluntary boycotts have any effect, but you do favour strongly greater publication and knowledge for the consumer on all these prices?

Professor NEUFELD: I do indeed.

Mr. BELL (*Saint John-Albert*): I want to mention another subject. I touched on it yesterday, but it is not contained in the brief. Mention has been made of poverty in the Maritimes. I want to get your view on what could be done in so far as having a national policy to assist a region where the difficulty becomes even greater when restrictions are placed on the flow of money, when there is a tight money policy and so on. You know the story: it affect the extremities more where money is just beginning to flow.

Do you have any ideas of what could be done? I am not asking for a full story of differing interest rates, but is there some idea you might have that we could explore. It is tied in with this very definitely, it is a result of inflation, whether we like it or not.