

The Address—Mr. Argue

that where necessary sterling should be accepted; that barter arrangements will increase our trade; that we should be prepared to exchange the goods we have for the goods we can use which other nations wish to ship to our country. We have suggested further that if after exploring every possible measure to increase our trade we still have surpluses, we should be prepared to give some of our surplus to the needy nations.

So far as our own economy is concerned, we feel there is a great opportunity to increase our home market. I have referred to the unemployed in our nation. I have calculated that in the last year, on the basis of the gross national product, because of unemployment we have lost more than \$1.6 billion. If those men and women had been working we can see that our own home market would have been greatly increased. This is a suggestion that we make to increase our home market, namely full employment policies in this country.

There are other ways in which our home market could be increased. We suggest that there should be an overall social security program which guarantees real security to people who are in need. We have noticed that although during the last session the government made a great deal about a study to provide a social security program in Canada comparable with the social security program in the United States, no mention has been made of it in the speech from the throne. We hope that the government will move in this direction and that the incomes of our old age pensioners will be greatly increased. This too would increase our home market.

We suggest that family allowances should be increased. The purchasing power of the family allowance cheque should be at least as great today as it was when family allowances were first inaugurated back in 1944. These are some of the measures we feel the government should be adopting now as part of a plan to provide full employment, full production, security for Canadians and an expanded home market.

The problem of inflation is not being tackled. Inflation is worse today than when the government took office. Unemployment is more severe than when the government took office in June. In spite of all the words that have been uttered during the election campaign and in the house this afternoon, I suggest that the agricultural industry is not in an improved position. During the last parliament we had a long battle over the government's agricultural stabilization act. The government said that this would give adequate parity; it would give the farmers their fair

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share of the national income. We noticed that the prices under this act were not announced until April 7 after the election. When the prices were announced we knew why the announcement was delayed, because in almost every instance they were a great deal lower than the market price.

The prices announced under this act have not helped the agricultural industry at all. As a matter of fact, if one relates the purchasing power of the support price under this act to the purchasing power of the support price under the old act introduced by the Liberal government in general the purchasing power of prices under the present act is a good deal lower. In other words, there has been no progress, there has been retrogression. It has been a step backward when compared with the position of the farmer a few years ago.

There is another crisis that faces the people of this country, and that is in the field of education. There is nothing in the speech from the throne that suggests to me that young Canadians, with ability to attend university but who have not the financial resources, will be enabled to enroll in the university. As a matter of fact we hear almost daily announcements that the tuition fees in our various universities will be raised in the coming year from ten per cent to twenty-five per cent. Our nation is starved for university graduates. There is nothing in the government's program to meet this crisis by providing financial resources to enable young Canadians to attend our universities.

These are some of the things that the new government has not tackled. These are the basic, underlying problems of our economy that have not been solved. Indeed, the major difficulties that face this nation today are just as severe as they were a year ago today. The C.C.F. believes it has a program that would solve these basic problems. We are not alone in this belief that action should be taken with regard to these matters. I know the country was greatly interested in the resolution that was passed in Winnipeg recently by the Canadian Labour Congress in regard to political action. This resolution, which was almost unanimously adopted, instructed the executive council of the 1,300,000 membership Canadian Labour Congress to meet with the C.C.F., to meet with farm organizations, to meet with small business organizations generally and liberal-minded people, to discuss the establishment of a political party in this country based on the principles, policies and philosophy of the C.C.F. movement, but with a broader and extended membership which would be attained by increased support from these organizations.