

Anti-Inflation Policies

and German counterparts. They admit we are not good managers. If we have inefficient management, we cannot have good labour. A short time ago we were examining witnesses from a motor company. I asked the sales manager of the company what he thought of the idea of putting an end to work stoppages in order to increase productivity. He said yes, it would increase productivity, but managers are used to selling ten months' production. He said they would not want to be faced with having to sell 12 months' production. They have geared themselves to a nice, soft, easy life. Japan, Germany and the United States to some extent are selling 12 months' production. These are the factors with which we have to deal.

There is also the question of gearing prices to the inflationary cycle. Of course, the commission is continuing to advise the Prime Minister and the government that there must be a restrictive measure. Let us not be fooled. We cannot have price and wage controls today. We have somehow tried to merge our thinking with that of the war years when there was a feeling of patriotism. At that time we were not concerned with production because 50 per cent of the production was being exploded. We had a completely different situation. The depression was barely over. Price and wage controls were effective then, but not now. Canadians would not stand for it now. It would not help the situation.

Some of the suggestions I made should at least have been studied by the commission. I have just returned from a meeting with the commission. In the last couple of months that we have been examining this question they have not changed their stand. They are set on a restrictive course—cut, cut, cut. When I asked if they thought of expansion I was told no, that was not in their sphere of reference. I said it was, but as far as they are concerned it is not.

There is the tragedy which the Leader of the Opposition referred to as a comfortable majority. There is no comfortable majority. Even those who are now employed fear they may lose their jobs. They do not know who is going to be fixed next. There has been talk of a 6.7 per cent unemployment figure. I think it is closer to 7.2 per cent. However, we do not know which seven out of 100 are going to be hit and everyone feels uneasy.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member, but his time has expired.

22218—58½

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, it is always a pleasure to listen to the hon. member for York East (Mr. Otto). I believe he is the spokesman for the silent majority in the government. I am very impressed with how he sits over there, thinks over here but votes over there.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Alexander: I do not intend to be mean this evening. I just want the hon. member to know I appreciate that very magnificent feat because not too many of us can do it. Some members cross right over. Of course, I expect him to do that one of these days.

Mr. Otto: Don't hold your breath.

Mr. Alexander: I come from an urban area and therefore feel compelled to take part in this debate. I have reviewed some of the material that is available. Hon. members know there are reams of material. We have heard a lot of statistics this evening. I do not intend to pursue that area to any great extent.

● (8:50 p.m.)

I am impressed by the fifth annual report of the Economic Council of Canada which was issued in September, 1968. It is entitled "A Challenge of Growth and Change". Considerable emphasis was placed on the value of our human resources. The Economic Council indicated that policy decisions that year—this was written in 1968—or the next year would in many cases have their major impact over a considerable period in the future. This is what concerns me, Mr. Speaker. Notwithstanding this is the year 1970, I believe that statement could well apply this evening.

I also notice that the Economic Council in its sixth report issued in September, 1969, reiterates its belief in the value of our human resources and states:

The greatest assets of a nation are its people... the most important resources of an economy are its human resources.

The Leader of the Opposition has a mandate to place on the Order Paper a motion drawing attention to the arrogance of this government and its dogmatic attitude, notwithstanding the fact that expertise has shown many times that it has been wrong in the policies it has pursued. I have had an opportunity of reading an important brief from the Social Planning Council of Hamilton and District, issued in March, 1970. This brief examines the area of poverty, one with which