

Interim Supply

Mr. Argue: We do not believe we have achieved a welfare state, as Social Credit tells us, or that is an impediment to our development. We are suggesting the welfare state should be developed much more. We are suggesting that we should have an adequate social security system. We are suggesting that our old people who retire in this country should not have to retire on a pittance of \$55 a month and be condemned to an inadequate income and near poverty for the rest of their lives.

Mr. Drysdale: How much?

Mr. Argue: There should be a social security system based on a proportion of the average national income. There should be a portable system of pensions, and into this fund, which should be actuarially sound, should be paid contributions from employers, employees, the treasury, and the self employed and the pension should be a very minimum \$100 a month. That is not too much in relation to the income of this country and in relation to what should be our standard of living.

We suggest also that there should be a full employment policy, that the answer to unemployment is jobs, and that the way in which to bring about jobs is through active participation by the government in embarking upon a great system of public works projects and public development. When the Liberals were in power they did a great deal in this regard. They had a number of inquiries. They had green book proposals. They had a shelf of public works. They put all the works on the shelf. They have left them there and this government has kept them there. Nothing has been done to implement the great public works projects that are necessary. I refer to projects in the field of highways, sewer and water installations, new schools, new hospitals, parks and the cultural centres and so on which are so necessary. Somebody says "provincial".

Mr. Drysdale: I said "fiddlesticks".

Mr. Argue: As long as we take the attitude that these things are the responsibility of the provinces alone, we take the attitude that Canada shall be condemned to continuing unemployment. In a country like ours which is a federation and which should be a co-operative type of federation or co-operative federalism, the federal government has the obligation of taking a leading role so that worth-while projects of this kind, admittedly in the main the responsibility of the provinces, can be brought forward and implemented.

This government is a private enterprise government.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Argue: Everybody applauds. They have been so consistently a private enterprise government that they are in danger of losing the election.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Argue: Everything they do that has any popular appeal at all is an interference with the so-called private enterprise system. They are bringing in amendments to the Industrial Development Bank Act. They are bringing in legislation making provision for the government itself to get into the field of trade, and this step we welcome.

An hon. Member: And housing.

Mr. Argue: Yes; and housing. If the government wishes to do something, it must in these measures turn its back on the philosophy which it announces with such great vigour in this House of Commons. There are those who have condemned public ownership in this past. This government is doing its best to tear down the crown corporations of this country.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Argue: "Hear, hear", they say. The government has been doing its best to tear down the C.B.C., and T.C.A., to interfere with the crown corporations that have operated in the interests of the people of this country.

An hon. Member: The Bank of Canada.

Mr. Argue: The Bank of Canada, somebody says, which is very much in the news is another instance of this government's interfering with the operations of public institutions.

In our judgment an increase in the field of public responsibility in the area of public ownership is not only desirable but absolutely necessary. We say, as I have already said, that in the field of drugs and in the field of the manufacture of farm implements the government should give consideration to an increase in public development. This does not mean nationalization.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Argue: Everybody says, "Oh, oh". This could mean federal money being invested either on its own or in co-operation with private business or in conjunction with co-operatives in developing these very important fields. Instead of Canadian Co-operative Implements Limited not being in a financial position to buy out Cockshutt when it had an opportunity to do so after the war, we suggest it would have been much better for a federal government of the day to offer the co-operative organization a type of partnership for the development of a manufacturing