

ago, there has been evidence since then that it had not been licked.

Hon. Mr. O'Leary: He was wrong.

Hon. Mr. Hicks: I do not hold that the Prime Minister is infallible, any more than I regard myself or the Honourable Senator O'Leary as infallible.

Hon. Mr. O'Leary: You are quite right, but I am asking you about the Prime Minister, whether you agree with him and you said you do not.

Hon. Mr. Hicks: I do not agree that inflation has been licked, certainly not.

Hon. Mr. O'Leary: Good.

Hon. Mr. Hicks: However, it is only fair to say that I was not referring to inflation at all, but to unemployment.

Hon. Mr. O'Leary: I asked you if you would give us the benefit of your wisdom with respect to it. You had been referring to unemployment and giving some very crazy figures.

Hon. Mr. Hicks: I was giving figures with respect to unemployment which I think are irrefutable, without minimizing the difficulties of the unemployment situation.

Hon. Mr. O'Leary: Some of us are going to sleep over here.

Hon. Mr. Hicks: I was trying to point out, honourable senators, that we ought not to lose sight of the very considerable accomplishments in the employment increase in Canada, deplorable as it may be that they have not quite, and I emphasize not quite, kept up with the increases in the numbers of the work force. They have, nevertheless, increased at a rate not exceeded by any other developed country in the world.

Hon. Mr. Flynn: That is the answer.

Hon. Mr. Hicks: Inflation is a different matter entirely and, with the leave of my honourable friend, I do not propose to deal with inflation this evening.

Hon. Mr. O'Leary: You had better not; you will be in trouble if you do.

Hon. Mr. Hicks: I think anyone who has tried to deal with it in the whole of the Western World has been in trouble.

Hon. Mr. O'Leary: It is higher in Canada than anywhere else and you know it.

Hon. Mr. Hicks: It has been extremely difficult to do so. Is my honourable friend suggesting that we should have a controlled economy? This is the only kind of economy that I know of that deals with inflation successfully. If that must be done and we control prices and everything that contributes to the cycle of inflation, then we have to control people's lives and a great many other things. I think my honourable friend knows that better than I.

Hon. Mr. O'Leary: I know it and I agree with you.

Hon. Mr. Hicks: I have one other reference to the specific proposals that have been made to improve our social policy in this country, particularly the suggestion that there should be encouragement to investors to make money available to meet housing needs. I will be interest-

[Hon. Mr. Hicks.]

ed to see how the government proposes to implement this suggestion. Indeed, it is my view that one of the changes in the Income Tax Act to which I referred a while ago had exactly the opposite effect, in isolating different categories of a taxpayer's income and making it impossible to set off a loss, particularly a loss by depreciation suffered in respect to one source of income against other income. Of course, a great discouragement to the investment of money in housing was put into our laws. It will be interesting to see how the government proposes to remedy the situation. I agree that it needs to be remedied, and it will be in the interests of the nation as a whole if steps can be taken to bring about the desired result.

• (2120)

I am interested also in the suggestions concerning the physical fitness and health of Canadians. It seems to me that in this area Canada has lagged among the developed countries of the world. I am talking not only of the winning of Olympic medals and placing in international competitions. Even that is of importance to some nations and individuals. However, in my opinion it is important that a vigorous people, as Canadians are reputed to be, should remain vigorous, active and healthy. We have been late among developed nations—perhaps as a result of our division of responsibility between the federal and provincial governments—in providing government assistance for programs of physical fitness and health. An excellent start has now been made by the Canadian government under both political parties, and I am glad to see that further consideration will be given this matter.

Finally, I am interested in the suggestions contained in the Speech concerning Canada's environmental and ecological policy. It is popular these days to talk about the environment and about ecological matters, and it is important that Parliament should take advantage of the climate of public opinion in favour of improving the environment, even though it might involve some expense on the part of taxpayers and citizens of Canada. Advantage should be taken to "go while the going is good."

Reference was made specifically to the importance of marine science and technology. Here I propose to include the only plug contained in my remarks.

During the past year, there was completed at Dalhousie University, my own university in Nova Scotia, a truly magnificent research facility which we call our Life Sciences Centre. It houses the Department of Biology, strongly oriented toward marine biology problems, as is fitting for a university located by the sea, and it houses the Dalhousie Institute of Oceanography, which works hand in glove with the Bedford Institute of Oceanography, the federal agency on the Atlantic coast. There are joint appointments among scientists in both institutions, and teaching and research are being undertaken on a fully co-operative basis between the two institutions. The centre houses, in addition, our Department of Experimental Psychology, which also concerns itself with life problems, a great many of which are marine oriented.

The whole facility, costing \$19 million, was provided from federal and provincial government funds, the federal support coming from the National Research Council and the Atlantic Development Board.