

*The Address—Mr. Argue*

items as the Bank of Canada, the Unemployment Insurance Act, the National Housing Act, the Canadian Wheat Board Act, the Old Age Security Act, to mention just a few. It has been said over the years that the Liberal party stayed in office by stealing planks from the C.C.F. platform. Probably as long as it was stealing planks and stealing enough of them it was able to stay in office but in spite of some improved legislation I think that the Liberal party was too slow and too backward in adopting progressive measures and that is the reason the Liberal party is now in opposition.

The Conservative party took office after making many promises to the people of Canada. We have now had the speech from the throne indicating that a very small part of that load of promises will be implemented during this session. It was interesting this afternoon to hear the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Pearson). Neither one really wanted to mention the word "recession" but both got around to it. The Leader of the Opposition said that the government is responsible, that it is not doing anything. The Prime Minister said that it is the 22 years of Liberal administration that are the cause of the trouble but in spite of the measures that the Prime Minister stated are being adopted I have noticed that the main economic problems that were with us when his government took office are present today and most of the major problems we faced on June 21 last when the Conservative party became the government are more serious today than they were at that time.

It is said that we are experiencing a period of recession, a period of unemployment, a halt in the economy. I was always taught that any time there was a recession under our present economic system there was an overproduction of goods, that in such a situation there was a relatively smaller demand and the price level would go down. But although we have surpluses of many goods prices are not coming down. Prices are in fact going up.

The change in the cost of living index from June of last year to April of this year shows a larger increase than in any similar period since June, 1951. In other words, when we face a recession, when we face widespread unemployment, we face also an increase in the cost of living, inflation and lessening purchasing power of the dollar. I think we all agree that inflation is very costly for the nation, that inflation places a relatively larger burden on the people least able to bear it, that those who have made savings over the years find their savings reduced in value. It

takes away many of the benefits social security payments would otherwise provide. People with low incomes find the increase in cost of living a very real burden. The C.C.F. believe that the only policy that will prevent inflation is a planned economy and control of the price level.

A number of figures have been placed on the record today regarding unemployment but all the figures placed on the record show that unemployment is increasing. The Prime Minister has stated the policies that the government is adopting to provide assistance for the unemployed and to provide jobs. The Prime Minister has been outlining the policies that his government is following, but when he had adopted those policies unemployment still increased.

Today the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Pearson) made a great to-do about the British free trade proposal, and said the government should be acting in this regard. But I can remember that while the government did not react in any positive way towards the British proposal when it was first made, the Liberal party, and particularly the present Leader of the Opposition, had no policy in that regard whatever. When the Leader of the Opposition was speaking in this house on October 23 last he replied to a question concerning his policy with regard to the United Kingdom offer. His reply as recorded at page 334 of *Hansard* for that date is as follows:

Our policy over here is to get the government which is responsible to tell the people of Canada what their policy is.

I suggest that that is a very inadequate position for a political party to take after a proposal is made, then in the meantime turn a somersault and today advance what they say is their policy, so long after the offer was made.

We have had an amendment moved this afternoon by the Leader of the Opposition. I should like at this time, if I may, to move a sub-amendment seconded by the hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Herridge):

That all the words after the word "requires" be struck out and the following substituted therefor: "firstly, planned economic policies to ensure an ever-rising standard of living for the people of Canada; and secondly, an expanded level of international trade that will be promoted by vigorous measures to develop and expand trade with all countries."

We are suggesting by this amendment that it is not only necessary to adopt new trade policies in the international field, it is necessary to adopt new policies within our country if we are to increase our markets. The C.C.F. program for increasing markets has been presented in this house on many occasions in the past. We have suggested