

Supply—Citizenship and Immigration

These were the factors which had to be taken into account. Then at page 2217 Mr. Harris said:

I do not believe that we can count on obtaining as large an increase in the labour force this year as was experienced last year.

I may say that when Mr. Harris made these statements on March 14, 1957, I agreed with him but, in the intervening month between the date of the remarks I have quoted and the date when I issued this stop order which was April 12th, it became evident that the volume of immigration would be considerably above what we had anticipated. Mr. Harris went on:

Nevertheless, there will be a substantial addition by the expected increase in immigration, an increase which appears likely to provide us with a greater percentage of workers than is usually the case. Further, while industrial capacity is continually growing, some industries may not have an increased requirement for manpower.

Now hon. members opposite have suggested that Mr. Harris gave an unusually rosy picture of the future, and I want to draw to the attention of the committee the very accurate and balanced picture he gave in the budget. As a matter of fact, every word he used has been thoroughly justified by what has happened since. Mr. Harris continued:

All in all, I believe, there is a good possibility that the inflationary pressures which have been present throughout the past year may begin to moderate during the coming year.

That last sentence of Mr. Harris', though perhaps it is not strictly relevant, is worthy of note, and I suggest the measures taken by Mr. Harris, and not anything done by the present Minister of Finance, have resulted in the control of inflation which we have experienced this year.

That was not the only advice I had. I had advice also from the Department of Trade and Commerce and at the end of March the Department of Trade and Commerce had a few things to say about unemployment and employment to which I would like to refer, because these were the things we had to face when this situation was being developed which the hon. gentleman had to meet by his increased appropriation. The department's report said:

Labour income, which amounts to two-thirds of personal income and one-half of the gross national product, will increase further during 1957.

I would like the committee to notice particularly that the department said it would increase further during 1957.

The most important factor contributing to this is the continued increase in wage rate expected. During 1956, wage rates increases were quite general, and larger on average than the previous three years. Further increases can still be expected, and hourly earnings can be expected to continue on up for some months after a general decline in employment, were it to develop.

I emphasize that point, "were it to develop". It was not said that it would develop. The next sentence is really important:

In addition, employment in the latest statistics available is higher than the average for last year and a moderate further increase can be expected. In total, labour income in 1957 is expected to be about 7 per cent higher than last year.

What I have read from is the document, the so-called hidden document, which the Prime Minister tabled in this house on March 20, and this is a very good bit of evidence of the way in which the Prime Minister completely misrepresented the contents of that document. If hon. gentlemen want further evidence of that misrepresentation I commend them to the editorial page of the *Winnipeg Free Press* of January 30, where they will find set out side by side what the Prime Minister quoted and what he left out. And I think that before hon. gentlemen go out on the hustings and start misrepresenting this document all over the country they had better read this page of the *Winnipeg Free Press* or, better still, read the whole document instead of parts of sentences torn out of their context, sentences torn out of paragraphs—

An hon. Member: And covers torn off.

Mr. Pickersgill: —and covers torn off.

Mr. Churchill: You are out of order, you know.

Mr. Pickersgill: I recognize this is not relevant.

Mr. Churchill: It has not been relevant for half an hour.

Mr. Pickersgill: I will return to the matter before us. I agree completely with what the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre has said.

An hon. Member: What did he say?

Mr. Pickersgill: That the warrant to provide this money was necessary because of the additional volume of immigration and because of the problem of meeting the situation faced by immigrants until they could find work. I agree that this vote was necessary, and I said so on October 17. But I also agree with the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre when he said—and I do not care when he said it—that this house should have the opportunity, when warrants are used, of considering them in a direct and straightforward fashion, and I think the government would do well to give the assurance which the Leader of the Opposition asked them to give, and which he gave on our part, that this should, for the future, be the case.

Mr. Low: Mr. Chairman, I hope the Minister of Finance and the Acting Minister of Citizenship and Immigration will believe me