

National Economic Development Board

Our problem is to bring all of these together so that we can find the answer to the problems we face.

I come back again to the politicians and government. What about our trade policies? The hon. member for Essex East referred very briefly to the problem of international settlements, and right here is one of the basic problems that urgently must be solved. No national economic development board or national productivity council or 10 more like boards are going to solve the problem unless we come back to these basic problems, and these problems come right back into the House of Commons and to us who are members at this time.

One could go on and on with regard to this and yet this is the purpose of the debate. I speak in generalities tonight, trying to put before the committee what seems to me to be the logical things which must influence our speech and our thinking as we try to come together to find an answer to the problem before us.

Again I come back to the national productivity council. I am not sure that members of this house are aware of just what it is doing. In fact, I myself would not have been as well aware if I had not known this debate was coming up and had done a little bit of homework to bring some of these facts to my own awareness. As I said, I am not sure that we in this house are aware of just what is being done at the present time by the national productivity council exactly along the lines which we have heard the Minister of Finance refer tonight, as he outlined what he felt the purpose of this economic development board should be. I picked up a copy of a speech the other day made by the president of the national productivity council and I should like to quote a few paragraphs from it as an indication of what I am referring to. He said with regard to the problem which faces us in our country today:

This is made even more serious for a country standing quite alone as ours is at present when you realize that most foreign countries have undertaken a planned industrialization and have formed councils for increasing the competitive ability of their countries. Even countries such as Greece are spending over twice the amount Canada is spending in the field of productivity with aims of educating their people in technical management, research, trade union traditions, and with the establishment of management-labour communications in industry.

We have a lot to learn from what has been done already by countries that are farther ahead than we are along the very approach we are suggesting here tonight.

Korea has a council with the objective of the rehabilitation of the national economy by continued industrial development and the development of experienced technical and managerial

skills... with active committees throughout the country, producing periodicals and books on management, using radio broadcasts, furnishing consultation services, and is running a training school with 304 graduates already.

In the more developed countries more intense efforts exist.

Japan is an outstanding example.

—the productivity council of Japan has a budget of \$4 million a year, is housed in a six storey building, with an organization with a president and 30 directors and 200 people on the staff, in addition to regional and local productivity centres. One of the most active functions of this group is the sending of teams around the world, studying manufacturing, marketing and markets. They have sent out over 300 trainees to foreign lands and brought 100 consultants in who have trained 1,300 specialists at home.

Yes, we have boards set up in such countries and we have reports available to us from Pakistan, India, Australia, Belgium, Austria, Yugoslavia, Finland, Sweden, Argentina, France, England and so forth, not overlooking the German centre which is working on the problems of efficiency in a boom economy.

This can be a lesson to us. One of the things that has impressed me most and one of the reasons behind my speaking as I am tonight is what has been done in Holland in the last few months, where they have brought their productivity council already in existence into the pattern of what we are thinking of now, a national economic development board. Again I say, let us take a lesson from those who are ahead of us already in this field, so that we do not fall into the mistakes which a couple of years from now will cause men to stand up in this house, as the hon. member for Essex East did tonight, and talk about the failures of the past.

I believe that one of the greatest hindrances today is the lack of co-operation in our country between management and labour and, secondly, between management and labour and government. Here again is one of the legitimate points we must cover in this economic development board if we are going to solve these problems. Yes, we can look into what the national productivity council is doing and we can find out in more than one place that it is doing exactly the very thing that we are thinking this new national economic development board should do.

In closing may I say this by way of offering a constructive suggestion for us to think about as we go on with the job. The national productivity council is the skeleton on which we can build a national economic development board. We can use the council as a basis and expand it to reach the objective about which we are talking with respect to this new board. Again I would suggest to the Minister of Finance that one of the