

Natural Resources—Development

people. That is where the capital is. The capital is in the physical and mental powers of the Canadian people. I think we should stop leaning upon somebody else's capital and start using the capital available among us. After all, that is what we must do if we are serious about what is proposed in the amendment.

We talk about money, and we inevitably run into the question of inflation. We are told by the press that the Minister of Finance said in Toronto a week or two ago that if inflation encroaches any more upon our economy we are going to have to choose between inflation and depression. He used that statement more or less as a shocker to try to persuade private industry and the government to some extent, I suppose, though he was not very successful in that regard, to hold off and not invest quite so much this year as last year because it is going to create more inflation and then we will have to choose between inflation and depression. Again this indicates the helplessness, the complete drifting of the government.

An announcement was made in the house the other day by the Minister of Trade and Commerce, and a statement was later distributed with respect to the investment intentions of private and public bodies in 1957. What do we find? We find that there is going to be another increase. Although it does not appear on the record, I noticed that the Minister of Finance made a grimace of dismay when the Minister of Trade and Commerce announced that total investment this year would approximate \$8.5 billion. It would seem that the Minister of Finance considered that as a blow to his anti-inflation campaign. And so we go on. The government which warns industry not to over-invest, not to create inflation, does not take its own advice, and then tells us that we have to choose between inflation and depression.

Is the government serious about that? I sometimes wonder. If you look at the newspapers these days or turn on the radio or television what do you find? You find hundreds of millions of dollars are being spent in this country to tell people to do what? To buy; buy as much as you can; buy this and that; go to a finance company; pay a dollar down and a dollar a week and away you go; buy your head off. Everybody is trying to push out everything they can. We are told to buy new automobiles, to build new buildings, to buy everything else we can, to spend our money; and then the Minister of Finance says we will have to stop this spending spree or else we will have to choose between inflation and depression.

[Mr. Zaplitny.]

Which way are we going? Are we serious about inflation or are we not? Today the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources got up, as do various ministers from time to time, and pointed with great pride to some of the new developments in the north and indicated that he saw a promise of much greater development. In other words, we talk one day in terms of wanting to develop the country and increase investment in the development of the country and the very next day the Minister of Finance will come back and cry about inflation. Does the government know where it is going so far as inflation is concerned? Is it serious about what it says, or is it just trying to fool the public?

As a matter of fact there is no need for the people of the country to make a choice between inflation and depression. We went through a period in this country when we had to exercise price control, and that can be done again. If that is found to be the wisest thing for the economy, then that is what should be done. The situation should be faced boldly and honestly, and the people should be told that that is one form of control which can be exercised to keep the economy on an even keel. The government should not conduct a war of nerves against the people by telling them one day not to buy because it will create inflation and the next day to buy all they can to develop the nation. They cannot have it both ways.

These are some of the things that come to our minds when we look at an amendment of this nature. I have mentioned some of the fields of public enterprise that can be used, but I also want to say that in planning the development of our industry and our resources we should never forget that the objective of such planning should be the general welfare and the raising of the standards of living of the Canadian people. If it does not have that result, then it is all futile and worthless.

That is why at every opportunity the C.C.F. has emphasized, and I think quite rightly so, that there should be the greatest possible social security for all our citizens within the framework of our productive capacity. We have emphasized that the welfare of our people should be our first objective, that we should provide the best possible health and hospitalization services, allowances in case of sickness and accident for families and federal aid to education in order that we may achieve the highest standards of education in this country.

Why should we not achieve the highest standards of education? We talk about the great developments that are going to take