

*Increased Cost of Living*

Agriculture said that he would like to see the Canadian Wheat Board made part of the Department of Agriculture instead of part of the Department of Trade and Commerce. We are not going to quarrel with him in that regard. He also said:

—the best we can do for the farmer is to give assurances of a continuity of large volumes in sales —we also want to get as good prices as possible.

Try to relate those words to the headline: "Wheat payment drops to a disappointing level." Then take a look at what the government has failed to do in respect of agriculture generally, not only in respect of those engaged in wheat production in western Canada. One might take a look at those who produce cream. One can then realize something of the mismanagement of the resources of this nation in the agricultural sphere by those sitting opposite during the last two and a half or three years.

You might ask me how these things tie in with the motion we now have before us. I should like to turn now to the report of the Economic Council of Canada released today. At page 168 under the heading "Supply And Other Complementary Policies" it states:

Fiscal and monetary policies are by and large instruments for influencing aggregate demand. The need for additional, complementary policies is in part a need for policies that will work on the side of supply. Important as demand is, it can be said that there has up to now been a relative neglect of policies to increase supply, both in general and in areas of particular pressure.

What I am trying to say is that when the government opposite set up the Economic Council and destroyed the productivity council which had been brought into being by the preceding administration they removed the emphasis on productivity which is the very basis for improving the social state of our nation and the very basis upon which we can give the people of this nation more for the dollars they earn and spend as consumers. This is one of the quarrels that we in the opposition have with hon. gentlemen opposite. Farther on in the report we find these words:

There is some evidence of a growing appreciation of the need for better productivity performance if Canadians are to reach their economic and social goals. A number of new or expanded policies and programs which can lead to productivity improvement have been initiated in both the public and private sectors of the economy: increasing investment in human resources to improve knowledge and skills and the higher priority being given effective manpower policies are outstanding examples.

That has reference to the policy introduced by those who sit in opposition today when they were the government and initiated the greatest vocational training program in the

[Mr. Nasserden.]

entire history not only of this country but of the world as well.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Nasserden:** Hon. members opposite do not applaud that because they have not done anything about it in the years since. That is one of the reasons that in the three years in which they have been the government of this country little or nothing has been done in that regard except the creation of the Department of Manpower which so far has failed to come to grips with this important problem.

I come now to the summary of conclusions in the report of the Economic Council of Canada. The second conclusion is:

A first and indispensable part of an effective program to meet the problem is a well co-ordinated and otherwise appropriate use of the broader instruments of economic policy, including fiscal and monetary policy, exchange rate policy, and commercial policy.

Then the third is:

To achieve a more satisfactory reconciliation of economic goals, the main policy "levers" must be complemented by policies whose primary focus is the supply rather than the demand side of the economy.

That is one more example of the short comings of the administration opposite. They have failed to provide the incentive necessary to keep the economy rolling in all parts of the country. That is one of the reasons that the maritimes, parts of the province of Quebec and other segregated areas of the country today enjoy a measure of prosperity much less than that enjoyed by many people in other parts of the nation. I say that agriculture generally across the country has been the neglected partner in our economy under those who sit in the government opposite at the present time.

There is also the problem of periodic strains, excess demand, and strong price and cost pressures in the construction sector. The Economic Council say that this calls for special treatment. I have a report here which was placed on the record some time ago in respect of the government's war on poverty. These are some of the things that were said at that time, as reported in *The Western Producer* of Thursday, February 24, 1966:

Enrolment in vocational and technical training schools has been "depressingly low".

This is in 1966, three years after the government opposite came into office, three years after they had an opportunity to initiate a policy which would have provided for a widespread effort to assist those in Canadian industry who were suffering.