

The Budget—Mr. McCusker

Let me say here, Mr. Speaker, that the table I have just put on the record shows that, although the total personal money incomes of all the people of the province of Alberta increased from \$521 million in 1942 to \$879 million in 1949, and the per capita annual dollar incomes increased from \$671 in 1942 to \$1,009 in 1949, the real total purchasing power increased only from \$445 million to \$547 million. The per capita annual purchasing power rose only from \$573 to \$628. Just by a glance at these tables one can see what a terribly confiscatory effect the present inflationary situation has upon personal incomes, and it can be worked out in dollars and cents.

The present inflationary situation may be a world-wide condition, as the Minister of Finance says, but I can assure him it is no phenomenon. It is a serious indictment of the financial and economic policy being followed by this and other nations. Inflation, like unemployment, does not come about as a result of the appearance of some virus-spreading spots on the sun. It does not just happen. Inflation comes about as the direct result of policies that are laid down by men, and it can be cured only by other and better policies laid down by men who are determined to give the human resources of this and other countries the opportunity for development and growth which is their divine right. It is to that end, it seems to me, that we ought to direct our attention. It is to that end of providing opportunities for the fullest possible measure of individual development and progress that the Social Credit organization across Canada has directed its attention and efforts.

I think I cannot close with any better words than these. Unless we get down to business and solve this serious question of the cost of living and the declining value of the Canadian dollar that problem will destroy our economy, and with that destruction of our economy will go the destruction of our chances for liberty in the years to come.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. E. A. McCusker (Regina City): Mr. Speaker, tonight I should like to direct the attention of the house to a serious problem which is affecting Saskatchewan and to offer a solution to it. I refer to its loss of population. First, I should like to give a little of the history of its settlement; second, economic and other reasons that have led

to the loss of population; and third, steps which should be taken to establish economic stability there so that we can retain and support our population.

About the turn of the century the settlement of the prairies started in real earnest. The tides of immigration from many nations flowed in, met and commingled. Racial traits, national antipathies and unknown tongues made slow the progress in welding these divergent people into a homogeneous community. But that amalgamation did take place, and today we have a united people in Saskatchewan.

In the great work of building up that country, many forces conspired to hasten this fusion taking place and none was more potent in influence than the opportunity given these people to work out their individual destinies under democratic institutions. Many of them for the first time experienced freedom there. These provinces were settled by young people from the maritimes, Quebec, Ontario, the United States, Great Britain, Ireland and many parts of Europe. They were the younger sons and daughters—the more venturesome—who sought opportunity in a new land. They brought from their countries little of worldly goods, but they brought a wealth of culture, ambition and determination. They quickly adapted themselves to the new life and to the hardships of pioneering, and built up that country. If you do not think that they have been assimilated and become good citizens, look at the honour rolls and read the names of those sons and daughters who served in two wars; look at the registration in the universities; look at the names of those taking part in the musical festivals. I am sure many of you were thrilled last night with the lovely voice of June Kowalchuk, of Regina, who sang in Toronto on the program "Singing Stars of Tomorrow" and won the first award. Look at the names of our athletes. In every part of the country you see the people who came there taking part in our activities.

After the first war our soldiers returned and helped us to build up that country. They had not been trained mechanically and industry in the east did not attract as much as it does today. Then came the recession with its economic upsets. Through drought our production was greatly reduced. Our herds had to be destroyed. We had no industry. Unwise marketing policies lost us our markets. I refer to the famous phrase "blasting our way into the markets". Our people started to leave. During the second world war our men were given mechanical and technical training in the

[Mr. Low.]