

subversive. That is a most dangerous situation. For example, at the time of the last plebiscite who dared stand on a street corner and say, "Vote 'No'." Yet any man had a perfect right to do that if he saw fit.

I mention these matters for this reason. I do not believe the members of this committee on social security should enter into their deliberations with preconceived ideas in respect of certain measures or steps that should be adopted, without having based their conclusions upon a comprehensive knowledge of the proposals in question. The committee, as I have said already, is to be made up of forty-one members, consisting of thirty Liberals, seven Progressive Conservatives, two Cooperative Commonwealth Federation, and two members from this group. I have no doubt this is based upon the representation in this house, but I trust that when the committee begins its deliberations we shall not discover that the thirty Liberals who constitute a substantial majority have already arrived at conclusions with respect to what the committee shall or shall not do. I believe we should keep the political aspect of the whole matter as far removed as possible.

There is a tremendous amount of work confronting the committee. As I examine the terms of reference I am obliged to assert that its job will not be completed in a week, a month, six months or a year. I feel that if we endeavour to rush in order to reach a conclusion by a given time, we may risk the danger of failing to do that which we have been charged to do. Speaking as one who has been proposed as a member of the committee, if this resolution passes we shall be called upon to study the social insurance schemes of the various provinces; to study the social insurance schemes of other countries; to discuss the most practical methods for social insurance in Canada, including health insurance, and the steps required to effect their inclusion in a national scheme; to look into the constitution and the financial adjustments which will be required for the achievement of a nationwide plan of social security, and other related matters. I wonder just how many of us realize the assignment we shall have to undertake, and I use the word "have" advisedly because we all have a responsibility in this regard. I feel that one of the most important things we shall have to consider is the constitutional adjustments which may be necessary to put into effect any proposed scheme.

To-night I listened while the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggart (Mr. Coldwell) spoke in very complimentary terms about the educational system of the province of Alberta, which [Mr. Shaw.]

I believe he said was the finest in Canada. He spoke of the enlarged school divisions which he said proved the fact that we would have to deprive smaller communities of their rights. Let me make it abundantly clear that while I agree with the statement that we have the finest educational system in Canada, the school areas were enlarged because of the fact that under the existing financial system it was becoming utterly impossible for the small areas to get along. I do not believe anyone in this house is better acquainted with that fact than I, because I have had plenty of experience in those rural schools. We found that in order to reduce the overhead, in order to provide the type of education the children of that province required, under the existing financial system it was necessary to enlarge our school areas and to cut down administrative costs so as to make available for other things the money which could thus be saved. But the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggart neglected to give other reasons for the splendid school system in our province. One of them is that we brought about a drastic change in our course of studies, and a change in our methods of teaching. But probably most important of all is the fact that we have the finest departments of education and the finest minister of education in Canada. That is the complete picture with respect to the matter referred to by the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggart.

In connection with the matter at present under discussion I believe we shall have to make a decision as between one of two things. The first is, are we suffering from conditions over which we have no control, or are we suffering from conditions of our own invention and creation? I say that the approach to the problem cannot be determined without first coming to a conclusion as to which situation has created the conditions with which we have been confronted from time to time. If the booms and depressions which have been our lot in years gone by are inevitable, then I can well see where certain insurance schemes will fit into the picture, and if such were the situation I would suggest that the first thing should be to proceed with such schemes. On the other hand, if we come to the conclusion that the conditions which have made life so difficult for us in the past are of our own creation and invention, then I believe we should attack the problem from the point of view of endeavouring to eliminate those conditions. The committee, as was stated in a certain newspaper editorial, can be the architects of an enduring and beneficent reform, or the authors of tragic failure. I thought those words were significant when I read them, and I still think so. Let us hope that out of the