

bits and pieces programme. Let me illustrate. On May 22, 1945, before the election, the Minister of Reconstruction (Mr. Howe) is reported in the press as having said:

There are 180,000 high priority jobs at present unfilled in Canada.

Then, after paying a compliment to hon. gentlemen to my left, he said:

Our C.C.F. friends have been predicting general unemployment during the transition period from war to peace in Canada.

Then he continued:

There is no such situation existing, and I see no signs of there being any in the future.

He went on:

Reconversion is about fifty per cent finished in Canada.

That was last May, nine months ago. On February 11, 1946, according to a press report, the same minister had this to say, on the same subject:

"Canada's reconversion job is about fifty per cent done," Hon. C. D. Howe said at a press conference to-day. The Reconstruction minister painted a bright picture for production, employment and national prosperity over the next few years. "Our exports are good," Mr. Howe asserted, "far above the level required for full employment. They will remain high during this year and next. This is mainly but now wholly due to loans to buyer countries, including China."

Apparently, as I said, the Minister of Reconstruction believes in the status quo. Reconversion was about fifty per cent finished last May and to-day is still about fifty per cent finished. Well, at least we can be thankful that we have not gone backward in the meantime.

The fundamental criticism of the government is that its approach is negative rather than positive. It seeks ways in which to correct the ills of unemployment, but does little to prevent unemployment by the creation of new opportunities for work. That I regard as the basic weakness of the government's approach to the problems it is facing to-day—attempting to cure them rather than to prevent them.

Recently the government issued a publication on the future population of Canada. I am surprised that the government has given no evidence that it has examined the implications of this report. On page 32 of bulletin F-4, "The Future Population of Canada," it makes the astounding prediction that even at the end of the century, fifty years from now, the Canadian nation will have no more than fifteen million people, or only three million more than it has now. On page 9, this document indicates that in 1971 the total population of Canada, based on present trends, will be only 14,600,000. In the whole of the maritime provinces there will be only

a million and a half people; in Quebec, 4,700,000; in Ontario, 4,400,000; in Manitoba only 850,000; in Saskatchewan only a million, in Alberta only a million and in British Columbia less than a million.

If that is the goal this government accepts for Canada, it is a doubtful compliment to the initiative and enterprise of the Canadian people. I wonder if this had anything to do with the "middle-power" philosophy of the government, which it proposed in the days before San Francisco. The Canadian people ought not to rest content with this challenge to their future.

On another page in this document it is indicated that after the end of the present century the population will begin to decline. Not merely is it going to be only fifteen million, but at that time it will begin to decline.

Either this country is capable of maintaining more than fifteen million people or it is not. If this is to be the extent of our future, it is time we knew it. If this prediction for our future is erroneous, we should find it out. I do not believe Canada's future is limited by any such narrow horizon. It anticipates an increase of only 100,000 people a year for the next thirty years. The natural increase is 150,000 a year. If these figures are true we shall not be able to maintain our own natural increase. I have travelled over every section of this country; I have seen its developed and undeveloped resources, and I say to the government it ought not to rest content under this indictment of our future.

Mr. GLADSTONE: Those figures take no account of immigration.

Mr. BRACKEN: This is a document from one of the government's own departments, and I say if it is going to take that objective as our aim we ought to find out what is wrong with things in Canada and make some plans to correct the situation. The government has been making economic examinations by fits and starts. Is it not time the government undertook an examination of our economic structure as a whole, with a view to relating our problems and policies to our economic possibilities? Are we to sit still under the suggestion that on one-half of this continent we are going to be content with fifteen million people.

What the government is achieving is not higher incomes by increased production, but a partial redistribution of existing wealth on the basis of scarcity. What we should be aiming to do is to place the emphasis on raising standards by increased production rather than by the division of a restricted production. Production alone is the source of material