

itself. It has permeated its way into the community. These men working in that movement have seen what can be done and they have formed a consumers' cooperative movement. They are to be found on the city council and in every public activity in the city. As a result of their activities there have been formed other organizations on the same basis which have proved to be extraordinarily successful. On behalf of the service cooperatives, the consumer cooperatives and the fruit organizations of Kootenay West I urge the government to give further recognition to the functions of the cooperatives in this changing society. The subamendment continues:

(2) that the budget fails to provide for the investment of public funds to bridge the gap between anticipated private investment and the total national investment required to assure a high national income and full employment.

The government has failed in not providing for a full programme of investment. This investment should not be limited to any extent to the immediate future. This is the time to plan for the future; this is the time the pattern should be drawn. If this government in this budget had announced to the Canadian people that where private enterprise failed to give good employment at decent wages the government had a programme to put those people to work at decent wages, I think it would have been accepted by the people of Canada as a genuine effort at the beginning of a new social order.

When it comes to the question of public investment, that means public expenditure. In that respect I suppose we shall be criticized by our hon. friends of the Progressive Conservative party. I think I am correct, and if I am not I trust the hon. member for York West will correct me, when I say that we have had a balanced budget only on fifteen occasions since confederation. When it comes to a question of public investment, it is not a question of going into debt. This public investment will be an investment which justifies expenditure. It is entirely different from public expenditures for purely relief projects which do not get us anywhere.

I suggest that this budget would have had a tonic effect upon the Canadian people if some such proposal had been provided, if the government had shown the Canadian people that they were preparing for the future. I admit that with the labour situation, and possibly with the material situation at the present time, it would not be possible to expect any great expansion of public enterprise, but I think the pattern for the future should have been laid down in this budget.

I suggest that there are three or four forms of public investment to which this government should give serious consideration and to which I suggest this government will be giving serious consideration before long.

First, we should have a public investment programme for national housing. That is the first need of the Canadian people; to see our people properly housed and sheltered is our first duty. At the present time several housing projects are coordinated under the administration of one minister, but at the same time we are not tackling this problem in the way we should. We have discovered that in the veterans affairs committee. No one is personally responsible. We should have a large programme of subsidized housing to meet the needs of the Canadian people. That should be planned for in a programme of public investment which would be put into effect as the need develops.

In addition, I feel that there is a tremendous necessity for public investment in the development of irrigation schemes which are so sadly required by many of our good friends on the prairies and by many people in British Columbia, especially in the Okanagan valley, in northern British Columbia and in the Kootenays. That is a programme of public investment which would bring dividends in the way of increased production. It would be a sound investment from every point of view. I believe that at the present time it would not be possible to go very far, but there, again, I suggest that in a programme of public investment this government should be planning great schemes of irrigation projects in western Canada; for the future, water means food.

There is another opportunity for public investment which would absorb the labour slack in the future. There is a great need for a programme of doing away with grade crossings. I understand that there are 30,000 level crossings in this country and that only slightly more than 3,000 are protected. There is a type of public investment which would pay dividends in the saving of life and time and which would build up and improve our facilities. I suggest that this is another form of public investment which should be considered by this government.

I now come to a programme which is of serious concern to the people of southern British Columbia and to the residents of my constituency. As part of a public investment programme trans-Canada highways should be developed. The Canadian people require for the immediate future a good highway system for the transportation of commodities and for the attraction of tourists from the south. During the past few days I have had a number