

The Budget—Mr. Drew

demands more than action by the manufacturers. It demands action by everyone. It demands action by this government, by the provincial government, by municipalities, by employers and employees, and by all Canadians. The outstanding fact with which we are confronted today is that Canada is no longer selling abroad in a sellers' market. We are up against the keenest competition this country has ever known.

The miracle of recovery in Europe is something of significance to every one of us. Out of the ravages of war 300 million people have rebuilt their economy in a way that has not been equalled in the whole history of mankind. It is only a few years ago that in a patronizing manner we talked about Britain and said that Britain was through, that the British were tired and really did not have the energy. Yet today Britain, with nearly four times the population, has only a fraction of our unemployed. Britain today is more prosperous than it has ever been in its history. France, with all its difficulties, is immensely prosperous. Italy has made a recovery that is beyond the imagination. West Germany has made the most incredible recovery of all. Out of the very ashes of the greatest destruction ever visited upon any nation has developed one of the great production areas of the world and, as we now know, they have moved even within these past few years into the third trading place in the world, although only six years ago we were insisting upon the destruction of many of their plants in the Ruhr and in the Rhineland. This is one of the most unbelievable recoveries. The same is true of Holland—gallant Holland, which Canadians know and admire—Denmark, Norway, the Baltic states, Switzerland; yes, and in Spain and Portugal, right through the whole of Europe, there is a level of production such as has never been known. Let us not forget our debt to the United States, because in very large measure that great recovery has been due to the unparalleled generosity of our friends in the United States and the money they have given for the reconstruction of Europe.

Having said that, then let me say most emphatically that that is not the most important by any manner of means. It is the spirit of the people. It is the spirit of the people of Britain that you see emerging out of all this effort. It is the spirit of the people of the different countries of Europe, and there today among those 300 million people, so closely akin to us in the ideas of society and of the good and decent things of life, we see production, we see skill, we see a mounting prosperity which is of importance to every one of us. Let us thank God that they have

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been able to recover in this way from the destruction which had taken place. But let us also remember that we should be very thankful that that great area stands prosperous and firm in the defence of the same freedom for which we are struggling at this time. Moreover, it presents a great market into which we can sell, if only we vigorously recognize the demands that are before us. Therefore, let us do everything we can to stimulate this activity. But the first place for this sort of action to come from is the government itself. The government has put forward a proposal that there be a commission to inquire into the broad economic future of this country. That is a fine thing; but, if it is a good thing to appoint a royal commission for that purpose, then that knocks into a cocked hat all the nonsense we have heard about royal commissions destroying the authority and responsibility of government. Every time we have put forward a proposal that there be a royal commission to inquire into waste and extravagance in the government, which incidentally has been found every time there has been an inquiry—

Mr. Rowe: It is getting worse.

Mr. Drew:—we have been told that it is contrary to our constitutional system and it would be a denial of the rights and responsibilities of parliament. But these people now put before us a royal commission to inquire into our economic system. We want something to be done right away to deal with this problem of unemployment. We want something done now to deal with the unemployed; and we want the government itself to do something that will stimulate the sense of economy and efficiency in this country.

Therefore, as we approve of the setting up of this commission, I repeat our request that a royal commission be set up to inquire into the operation and organization of all government departments and all agencies of government. We have heard these pious assurances about efficiency and the things they are doing. I shall close these remarks by saying to the Minister of Finance, in the ancient biblical words, "Physician, heal thyself".

An hon. Member: A great speech, George.

Hon. Paul Martin (Minister of National Health and Welfare): I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that we will all agree with the observation of the amiable gentleman who just intervened and say that, from the point of view of delivery and the renewal of old-time vigour, "That was quite a speech, George." I may say to the Leader of the Opposition, before I cross swords with him this afternoon, that I am very glad, as everyone in the house is, that during the past month or so, he has