

Proposed Committee on Unemployment

whether many hon. members in the house have stopped to realize that in 1953, the year just past, the labour income in this country was \$9,700 million. It hit a new high. It was nearly 10 per cent higher than it was in the previous year, when it was \$8,800 million.

I for one am greatly disturbed by the fact that wages continue to increase while there is a decrease in the incomes of that group who, as I have said, are the very backbone of the country. That is why I feel that in this debate, as in most of these debates that take place in the House of Commons, that particular group are the forgotten people. Those are the people who produce the real wealth of your country. In nine cases out of ten they are the ones who are forgotten. If wages continue to increase—and apparently every union is asking for increases—we shall find that we have not only priced ourselves completely out of foreign markets but that we have come to the place where people at home will refuse to buy in the domestic market.

As I stated a few moments ago, the first fairy tale we hear is that of overproduction. May I say that in the best years this country or this continent has ever seen there are thousands and thousands of Canadians who would like to own cars but who do not own them; they cannot afford to buy them. There are today thousands and thousands of Canadians who would like to have television sets but they cannot afford to buy them. The price tag just says no. There are many homes in this country in which they have not even a radio. Is it because there is overproduction of radios that they have not radios in those homes? No. The only reason that they have no radios is that they cannot afford to pay the price on the price tag that is hung on the radios.

I could go into this matter in a great deal more detail and I hope to do so at some later date, when again I shall take the time of this house to put a few prices on the record. These prices will be the authentic price in the United States of America as compared with that of exactly the same article manufactured in Canada. I collect that sort of data nearly every week, and I have quite a bit that I want to put on the record. One of the biggest problems that we have to contend with in this country is the fact that that price tag, in many cases, is 50 per cent, 60 per cent or 75 per cent higher than the price tag that hangs on the same article across the border.

That is one of the big problems we have to contend with. Some way must be found to bring these prices more into line. Sometimes

[Mr. Stuart (Charlotte).]

when I see such terribly great variations I wonder why the people in this country have not exploded long before this time. People living back from the border do not have the same opportunity to watch these glaring examples of robbing the people of this country. When I am home I see it every day, and it is brought to my attention every week. I refer to this discrepancy as between United States prices and the prices the Canadian people are asked to pay today. That is another subject all its own which it would take a long time to deal with. At some future time I hope to have the opportunity to bring that matter to the attention of this house.

There are many things along this line that should be discussed openly in the house in the hope that some day we may convince the manufacturers in this country that we have subsidized industry long enough. When you mention "subsidy" in the House of Commons you find that by a great many members it is looked upon with a great deal of suspicion. "Subsidy" is a word they do not like. But when I see a company in the United States, with a subsidiary in Canada under the same name, which is charging \$300 in the United States for an article that costs me \$600 in Canada, there is a lot of subsidy connected with it somewhere. Some may call it tariff protection. Some may have other names for it. To me, however, it is the subsidization of industry by the Canadian people.

Mr. Adamson: Would the hon. member name the article?

Mr. Stuart (Charlotte): Since the question has been asked by the hon. member to my left, I shall do so. I am sorry I did not bring the documents down to my desk. Just a few weeks ago advertisements were sent to me from two papers. One is printed in Windsor, Ontario and the other is printed just across that little bridge in Detroit, Michigan. On the same day two advertisements appeared in the two papers. They are advertisements by the Westinghouse people. They have to do with an automatic washer and drier. In the United States on that particular day the price was \$369.90 and in Windsor it was \$689. Yet only a few days ago my friend the hon. member for Greenwood (Mr. Macdonnell) rose in his place in the house and said he hoped that when the government was looking into this matter of dumping in Canada, they would give every consideration to those who manufactured electrical appliances.

If the hon. member would like to see the advertisement it is in my office, and I should be pleased to show it to him. It had to do with articles which were exactly the same,