

## Unemployment

want it. We are quite prepared to support any of your policies if you will announce them, but do not sit back in smug complacency and try to disregard this serious situation.

Apparently it is not only in Canada that we are running into this cycle. I have here a clipping which indicates something which is happening in another part of the world. From this article it would appear that next year when an atomic explosion takes place there may be a smell of coffee in the air. It may well be that it will be a true smell, indicating that there is a surplus of coffee in Brazil which they are burning. We can all remember the recent increase in coffee prices. It appears that, so far as the capitalist countries are concerned, those who put their complete and unflinching trust in the capitalist system apparently have no answer to the problem of distribution, the problem of giving the people the purchasing power with which to buy back some of the foodstuffs they have produced.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I know full well that the members of all groups in this house are good members. They are concerned about their constituents. They are concerned about the unemployed. I want to pose this question to those who are always defending this competitive system, the so-called free enterprise system. What satisfaction is it to the 600,000 unemployed to know that each and every one of them is competing against the other for a job to earn the bread and butter for their families? That is what takes place unless there are jobs for these people to enable them to do decent and honest work to earn a living for their families. I do not care in what part of the house any hon. member sits, he must be concerned about this situation.

There are people who are well paid and who, perhaps, through conviction adhere to one philosophy or another. They, perhaps, are quite honest in their convictions and I grant them the right to their own convictions. But we have certain people like Max Eastman who, in the last issue of *U.S. News and World Report*, apparently made an attack upon the socialists throughout the world. He said they are the biggest flop in history. All we need do is look over the countries in which God has been provident, and where we have been able to produce an abundance under the capitalist system, yet we find that those countries are unable to prevent these recurring depressions. There are these recurrent unemployment situations such as the one in which we find ourselves today.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of reasons why no government under a capitalist

system can find an answer to this problem. I recall that in 1945, prior to coming here, we heard it said that after the war the government would have a shelf of public projects and if unemployment started to show its ugly head the people would be put to work. What has happened to that? A year ago I required of the Minister of Public Works what had happened to that program, and he indicated that there was no program. Back in February, 1951, the manpower council was set up. What has become of this manpower council? We have been told in this house this year that they have not met; they have not been doing anything. Why have they not been doing something? I should like to ask those responsible cabinet ministers what they have been doing about this problem. It seems they have been doing very little, so we find ourselves in a worse situation all the time.

Tonight's *Ottawa Journal* indicates that there is going to be a revision of the Unemployment Insurance Act. So far as we in this group are concerned we do not believe that unemployment insurance in itself is the answer to this problem. It may be a good thing, and it certainly is a good thing for people who cannot find jobs or who are temporarily unemployed. But we believe that in this country, with all our resources, we can put our people into useful employment. These people could help themselves provided we had a government which would get out and do some planning that would provide employment. The government has put all its faith in the free enterprise system.

The war ended in 1945, and by 1947 the government had started to remove price controls. One after another they were thrown out the window, until we had a condition of unbridled free competition in this country, the kind hon. members opposite seem to like. This has meant that the people who are in a position to charge more and more for the commodities which they produce, and get more and more profits, have practically priced Canadian products out of the world market. Today we are in a very competitive world situation, and we cannot sell many of our goods. It is for this reason we find many factories shut down. They simply cannot meet foreign competition because of the high cost of production in this country.

Let it not be said that it is labour in this country that has been responsible for the increased cost. It is true that today our labour force is enjoying better conditions than ever before, but it is equally true that the profits made since 1945 in some industries have increased year by year. That in itself is the most important reason.