

8. Safeguards for primary producers.

The Canadian Wheat Board Act and the Prairie Farm Assistance Act have for some time acted as safeguards for primary producers. Price returns for agricultural workers are more stable as a result of the co-ordinating work of the Wheat Board in marketing Canadian grain in inter-provincial and export trade in such a way as to promote the sale of wheat and other grains abroad. The Prairie Farm Assistance Act assures the farmer of a return for his labour even in years of crop failure. The Agricultural and Fisheries Prices Support Act are also providing means whereby the Canadian farmer and fisherman may be assured of more adequate and stable returns. These Acts have already been used to dispose of surplus supplies of potatoes, apples, canned fish, and were designed to give further security to the fishing and farming industries.

9. Stimulus to housing

Another important factor in the Government's policy is the stimulus given to house construction in Canada through the operations of such measures as the National Housing Act, the Veterans' Land Act, the Farm Improvement Loans Act, and the Canadian Farm Loan Act. The operation of these Acts, the allocation of materials in short supply, and subsidies for the production of certain building materials, have all helped in providing the largest housing programme in Canada's history. The Government's housing policies have included the building of homes for veterans (now extended to include living quarters for defense personnel), as well as loans and guarantees for the construction of home ownership and medium and low rental housing units. Rental insurance to safeguard a minimum return for the investor, double depreciation on rental projects, grants-in-aid for slum clearance, research on problems related to housing and community planning, are also part of the Government's housing programme.

10. Development and conservation of natural resource.

Because of shortages of labour and materials, many projects for the development of Canada's national resources have been and are being deliberately deferred at this time. However, in addition to the Government's normal programme of research, experimentation and demonstration in this field, some new measures and the expansion of others with long-range effects have been put into operation. For example, surveying and mapping work, basic to the development of such resources as mines, forests, fisheries, etc., have been greatly increased. Extensive development work is being done in certain areas of the Yukon and Northwest Territories, a part of Canada as yet unorganized as a province and in which the Canadian Government carries out responsibilities similar to those of a provincial authority. The Government has assisted in the recent oil developments in Alberta by extensive geological surveying in the immediate area, by giving top priority for materials and equipment, by providing favourable tax allowances, and by furnishing technical advice and information. An important development in Western Canadian agriculture has been the soil and conservation work of the Government under the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act. Other resource development measures include assistance to the marshland reclamation work in the Maritimes, the initiation of the Eastern Rocky Mountain Conservation scheme with the province of Alberta, the establishment of the Forest Insect Control Board and the Prairie Provinces Water Board.

11. Public Investment

For the present, public investment expenditures on the part of the Federal Government are being restricted to essential, urgently-needed projects, but at the same time machinery and procedures, as well as a reserve shelf of federal projects, are being developed for future use in a large-scale investment programme.

Question 5

(b) Are there any "automatic economic stabilizers" inherent