

The Budget—Mr. Argue

these things may lead to increased pressures. In an economy such as we have with an increasing control by large corporations this government should be prepared to take whatever steps are necessary to regulate the prices of the chief commodities produced here that are now controlled by monopolies or semi-monopolies.

This broad attack by the government is in my judgment necessary for the functioning of democracy, to restore our economic health and to restore the self-respect of the Canadian nation among the community of nations of the world. In doing these things I do not suggest we should place all our emphasis on material matters. This government should consider some of the things that are of great cultural value. It should consider the creation of a ministry of culture and national objectives, a department which could give advice and leadership in the development of the arts and sciences, making it possible for Canadians to enjoy the benefit of this kind of cultural endeavour.

I have been endeavouring to put forward some of the things I feel the government should be doing at this time. Today the main estimates for this year were presented in this house. These show that the vision is a thing of the past, that the government has forgotten its many promises to the Canadian nation.

There is no indication in the suggested expenditures in the main estimates of any vast attack on unemployment or any of the programs necessary to bring about full employment to increase incomes in our country. That is not to say there are not significant figures. The high charge of public debt which was \$680 million for the year 1959-60 and was up to \$774 million for the year 1960-61 is down just \$1 million in the estimates for the current year. This is an indication of the cost to the country of this government's high interest policy.

The measures I have suggested are in the opinion of this group necessary to deal with the economic crisis facing the Canadian nation today. These measures are not provided in the budget that is under discussion. However, there are certain things in the budget which should cause Canadians a great deal of concern. I have been disturbed by the proposals in the budget to increase the efficiency and speed with which the tariff board can deal with tariff questions, by the suggested changes in the Tariff Board Act which would give to the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Nowlan) arbitrary power and by the changed basis on which certain tariffs are levied.

Canadians have an ingrained suspicion that a Tory government is a high tariff government. This is more than an ingrained suspicion because contained in this budget are

proposals of this government to bring about the greatest orgy of tariff increases that this country has seen. In addition changes are proposed to give to the Minister of National Revenue arbitrary and far-reaching powers which should never be placed in the hands of a minister.

The Minister of Finance has made no bones about the need for the tariff board to expedite decisions in applications for tariff changes. The minister has gone so far in his proposals as to suggest the appointment of additional members so for all practical purposes the board will be split in two and sit in the form of two panels and instead of having one tariff board we will have two. The boards will be able to sit simultaneously and increase tariffs twice as rapidly as could one tariff board.

Mr. Bell (Carleton): Does the hon. gentleman not wish the board to hear the application with respect to vegetable oils?

Mr. Argue: The hon. member who interrupts may make his own position clear at a later time. I am presently making clear the position of this group. In the Customs Tariff resolution the following is set out:

(a) in the case of goods other than goods custom-made to specifications, goods of approximately the same class or kind are made or produced in Canada;—

It further sets out:

(b) in the case of goods custom-made to specifications adequate facilities exist in Canada for the economic production of such goods within a reasonable period of time.

The following is then set out:

(3) The decision of the minister shall be final with respect to the following matters:

(a) the normal Canadian consumption of the goods described in subsection (2), and

(b) whether goods are custom-made to specifications, and whether adequate facilities exist in Canada for the economic production of such goods within a reasonable period of time.

The minister will decide whether in his opinion 10 per cent of certain goods consumed in this country are produced in Canada, whether they are of a class or kind approximately the same class or kind as certain imports and whether adequate facilities for the economic production of such goods exist in Canada within a reasonable period of time.

We need to have not only a planned economy within our country with effective production and distribution at home but we also need planning in export markets and in international trade. No one suggests that this country should allow foreign countries to dump their goods here to displace Canadian workers who have been operating for many years in Canadian industry but we