

*Canadian Centennial*

The hon. member's resolution mentions the economic development of this country. Throughout the past year, unnecessary hardship has been caused by the so-called tight money policy. This measure brought on supposedly to curb inflation and regulate the rapid expansion of this country almost crushed many sections of our economy and has caused great hardship in my own riding. Almost overnight, the former government restricted and curbed, above all else, small businessmen, an additional burden being added to the already heavy load that these people have shouldered. I am confident that the raising of the lowest tax bracket for small businessmen from 20 to 25 thousand announced by the Minister of Finance last Friday evening, is a step in the right direction, and should greatly encourage the 2,000 odd enterprises which will be affected.

We have noticed in recent weeks that the gradual and general downward trend of interest rates is continuing, and we hope this bill will be even more noticeable in the future. The tight money policy, child as it was of the previous government, has meant a much reduced rate of home building in my riding, tremendous difficulties for our municipalities, and considerable unemployment. Let the hon. gentlemen opposite consider, as they stir their dark cauldrons of fear and foreboding that they spawned these troubles of unemployment, and that the linkage is direct and unmistakable.

The mortgage money made available by our government on two occasions has helped, and will help, the housing situation very considerably. The resolution before us talks of housing and slum clearance, and we intend to go forward and face these problems. The government's decisions to lower down payment requirements on new low cost homes, and ease income restrictions, were indeed wise. We hope that further moves and reorganizations in the field of low cost housing are planned for the future. This will all be part of the national development policy that we have promised the people of this country, and which will bring increased employment and a thorough development of our country's resources by, and for, Canadians. This policy is now beginning to unfold, and makes unnecessary, by its very action and practicability, the intent of the hon. member's resolution.

The social development of Canada, as observed in the resolution before us, is of great importance. Our party believes in social benefits of a just and reasonable nature, and we have taken certain preliminary steps to change and modify our present methods.

Increased pensions for senior citizens will greatly aid our older people as well as their children, who are in many cases responsible for young families, to gain a foothold themselves, and support their parents as well. The reduction of the residence requirement from 20 to 10 years partially removes a serious discrimination against our new Canadians. We have in Halton some 7,000 of these people who have come to Canada in the last few years, bringing with them specialized skills and knowledge, and whose development, in a material sense, has not cost us the inevitable subsidization in education, health and other fields, which most of us have experienced. These measures are a step in the right direction, a prelude to what we hope will be a comprehensive and thorough reassessment of our social security measures.

The increased war veterans allowances are merely the due of men who saved our country in many times past, and a credit to the Canadian Legion, which plays a large and constructive role in our various communities.

The recent difficult and courageous decision by the cabinet to continue the CF-105 production program at Malton has aided the economy of my county a good deal—and I note that sectional economy is mentioned in the resolution. There is every evidence that an extension of conventional aircraft and general military development will be necessary for some years to come. Utterances from Russia, to the effect that missiles will present the only solutions to offensive or defensive operations, are not borne out, even by the Russians themselves. Their large build-up of submarines and other conventional military material indicates a very definite balance or reliance on their part, on both the new strategy of missiles, and the older methods which have been used up to now.

I wonder, from time to time, Mr. Speaker, just why it is that we have not been further ahead in various military fields, and why we should face recurrent and convulsive shocks in our employment and working program at Malton, several thousand of whose workers live in my own county. I hope it will not be written that we were too late, and that the former government's neglect both of diversification in the economic sense and lack of vision in the military field at Malton and its allied industries was a measure of our loss of leadership and freewill.

Possibly, but improbably, Mr. Speaker, the Liberal party opposite is planning a new national development policy in accordance with this resolution. The two chief exponents of that party, one to the left and one to the right, equally placed about their leader, are facing forth these days in search of plunder.