

considering what is involved in economic democracy, the first thing we have to settle in our minds before we can make any progress is, what is the object of an economic system; what is its purpose; why have we an economic system? I suggest that the only legitimate purpose of an economic system is the production of the greatest desirable abundance with the very least amount of work and trouble. I consider that a sound fundamental. It is basic; and unless we properly establish the object of an economic system, then any superstructure we may erect upon it will be faulty and to no purpose.

I have listened to various proposals which have been made, but as yet I have heard no group in this house or outside it, other than those who subscribe to the social credit philosophy, advocate as a basic fundamental the maximum production of goods with the minimum amount of work and trouble. Today we hear from many quarters, including the speech from the throne, the suggestion that the object of an economic system is to find jobs, to put people to work at full employment. The speech from the throne states:

My ministers have already begun to explore the international agreements and domestic measures which will help to secure adequate incomes for primary producers and full employment after the war.

I suggest that the providing of jobs is an illegitimate objective of an economic system. The objective of an economic system is, I contend, to produce abundance, whether or not that creates jobs. I consider that principle to be sound. I believe we ought to engage extensively in national projects once the war is over. The other evening the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggar (Mr. Coldwell) suggested that an appropriation of \$5,000,000,000 ought to be set aside to be spent during the first two years after the war. I also observed, however, that he skilfully avoided indicating where this amount of money was to come from. I certainly believe there are many national projects in which we ought to engage when peace comes. There is no reason in the world why we should not have at least a two-lane, hard-surfaced highway from coast to coast, or a four-lane highway if necessary. There is no reason why all the roads in this country should not be hard surfaced, right up to the front door of the farm-house. There is no reason why we should not make every natural beauty spot in this country accessible to the people. I am very much interested in this aspect of our national projects by reason of the fact that I have the honour to repre-

sent one of the largest and most beautiful places of this kind not only in Canada but in the whole world. In looking over the situation I am satisfied that we could build a thousand miles of hard-surfaced roads in Jasper park itself in order to make these beauties of nature accessible to the people of Canada as well as to the outside world. I am satisfied that we could spend a million dollars very easily in one year in Jasper park in order to make it more readily accessible and more attractive. Again, I see no reason why we should not launch a national housing programme under which we would rebuild up to three-quarters of all the houses and dwelling places in this country. Again, our forests ought to be replanted and there ought to be far more fire protection than we have at present. We could also devote attention to the reclamation of waste land, to irrigation projects, and to the complete electrification of every home in the country.

I consider these legitimate projects; and if it takes work to bring them about, well and good. We ought not, however, to engage in these projects for the sake of providing jobs. We ought to build roads because we want roads on which to travel, not just in order to put people to work. We ought to rebuild houses because we want our people to live in the most congenial surroundings possible, not in order to put carpenters to work. If we adopt that attitude toward all our projects we are going to get somewhere; otherwise we are going to do a lot of foolish things such as we did previous to the outbreak of the war.

In carrying out these national projects, as well as in conducting our industrial enterprise, we ought to take the fullest advantage of all technological improvement and progress. As I have suggested several times already, there are those who constantly suggest that it is the duty of industry to provide jobs. I say definitely that is not so; it never was, should not be and cannot be. It is the duty of industry to produce, and that is its only objective whether or not it requires human effort. We all know that in this modern day, by reason of technological advancement, human energy is a very small factor in the production of anything. The constant trend of human endeavour ever since man was placed on this earth has been to free himself from nature-forced labour. That is why we have had all these modern inventions. Man is trying to free himself from the bugbear of drudgery so that he may have more leisure time, and I think that is a legitimate objective. We ought to use every piece of machinery that