

Proposed Committee on Unemployment

great land should be recognized. It is part of the basic rights of a human being today that he have the opportunity to work. I am going to remind this house again of article 23 of the declaration of human rights which was endorsed and adopted by the United Nations general assembly about five years ago. It reads:

(1) Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.

(2) Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.

(3) Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration, ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.

(4) Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

Surely that declaration of right should be part of the rights of the Canadian people. Surely that is not too far off the definition of 1953 Liberalism. The hard fact remains that Canadian goods have been priced out of the world markets. The Canadian government had an opportunity to prevent this increase in the cost of Canadian goods by holding the line. They failed to do so. Canadian goods have to get into the position where they will be at a price level in the markets of the world which will make them competitive. Trade and foreign markets can be held.

The government in power in Canada today must accept its responsibility, and the Canadian people are looking to the government to solve this problem. They are responsible in the first place. Canada has to meet this challenge somehow. Import and export trade have to be restored if there is going to be any long-term solution to the problem facing us today, and that problem is not going to be overcome until we restore our trade. The mere fact that trade is being endangered and our goods cannot be sold is a sign that more trouble is brewing.

This I believe is the biggest problem that has faced this government in its whole term of office. Our economic industries must be maintained in production. It is only through continued employment, when the people are taking home pay envelopes, that you maintain prosperity. Only when the primary producers, the farmers, the fishermen, the coal miners and the lumbermen are working will there be prosperity in Canada.

This problem is going to require drastic action on the part of Canada. The fate of this government depends upon a solution—not only the fate of this government but that of the Canadian people, who today are looking to this parliament for action. If they do not get action not only will the government

suffer, the Canadian people will suffer as well. The situation is so serious that I suggest the government ought to declare war on poverty, unemployment and want in Canada. I do not believe their proposal to undertake expenditures on public works will solve the problem, though it might be a temporary, partial palliative.

I would like to pay a compliment to the hon. member for Inverness-Richmond (Mr. MacEachen), who in a very scholarly speech the other evening presented some facts to the government, most of which concerned the public works program and were most significant. During his speech the hon. member referred to the expenditure of some \$21 million on the building of the Canso causeway linking Cape Breton island with the mainland of Nova Scotia. He told us that this expenditure meant employment for only some 150 to 200 men.

It is surely a sign of progress that due to mechanization only about that number of men were required in the building of that causeway. Of course that is not the entire number of men who are employed there, because there are other jobs to be done in connection with the project such as the construction of machinery in factories, and so on. However, it does point to this very important fact, that \$21 million in public works does not solve the problem of unemployment for a very large number of people. If the government were to attempt to create employment for about 520,000 people they would have to make an expenditure of about \$67 billion in such projects.

As it is now, as soon as the causeway is completed there will be an additional 200 to 400 men unemployed. These men who are now earning a living because of the operations of the ferry at Port Hawkesbury will also be looking for work elsewhere.

A public works program is not enough. Basically we have got to get down to the question of trade, and we have to get back to that position where we can manufacture goods which will be exchanged for the goods of other countries, which will keep our construction projects and factories working. If this government will declare war on poverty, want and unemployment, they will find that the Canadian people will not permit the things which happen in a military war, such as cost plus contracts; and the people will be mighty watchful in regard to profiteering. The cost of living has to be lowered in this country in order to put Canadian goods in a comparable position with goods from other countries.

The immediate program will have to be one which will take regard of the position