at every turn is that he has not yet made up his mind whether our economy needs to be encouraged or whether it needs to be held in check. On the one hand, he wants to see production increased; and, on the other, he does not, particularly if it means making the people prosperous and putting more pressure on the price ceiling. He wants to have his cake and eat it too. He asks for more production so that he can hold his price ceiling line, and then he turns around and destroys the incentive for both individuals and businesses without which there is not likely to be more production but less. Already the index figure for the volume of manufacturing stands at 190 as compared with 271 in April, 1945, and 291 in April, 1944. Not since John Bunyan's "Mr. Facing-Both-Ways" have we had such an example of disastrous indecision.

The people of Canada might not be so much alarmed at this budget if the minister had not said that it was "essentially a peacetime budget, providing for the financial needs of the first post-war year which is wholly a year of peace", to which he added that certain demobilization costs would not be of a recurring nature. This, then, is to be the model of his government's production-incentive budgets for the future—may we hope it will be short.

I have asked for a reexamination of his government's policy on excessive expenditures, on exports, on private expenditures of a capital nature, particularly housing, and on consumer's expenditures and price control. I have pointed out the fallacy of the incentive-destroying personal income and corporation taxes, the restrictionist effects of their attempts at managed economy, and the unfair and anti-social distribution of the tax burden in the case of married women who wish to work.

The importance of "take-home pay" has been emphasized and certain alternative fiscal measures have been suggested. We are rapidly drifting, if we permit the trend to continue, into a managed economy where brain-trusters regulate the conditions under which we all strive for a living. It is a step toward socialism and state control and the eventual loss of economic liberty which inevitably leads to the loss of personal freedom for which we have just fought and won a great and costly war. Our duty is to give our people a budget which will ensure them their economic freedom as well as economic security and encourage them to put forth their best efforts in order that all may fully share in the great heritage which is Canada!

Mr. H. W. HERRIDGE (Kootenay West): I just wish to make a few comments on the budget and to present to the house some of the opinions of my constituents toward it. It was interesting to me to listen to the criticism of the Progressive Conservative party members, especially the first two or three speakers who asked for a policy of economy in this country. I am interested in it because, after hearing the criticism and other experiences I have had, I have found the reason why the Progressive Conservative party is called the Progressive Conservative party. When the members of that party sit in the veterans affairs committee they vote unanimously for every scheme that means the expenditure of money, and sometimes vote against the majority of the committee. When the Conservatives come into the house they criticize the government for the expenditure of money in general. Therefore, in the veterans affairs committee we find them very progressive and in the house typically Conservative.

This afternoon the hon. member for York West (Mr. Adamson) dealt with the question of bringing the Canadian dollar to parity with the United States dollar. He pleaded with the Minister of Finance (Mr. Ilsley) to work on behalf of having a free market for gold so that gold could be sold at a world price. When he was saying that I thought of the days of the depression in the United States when there was a free market for gold, when gold was selling at $22.62 an ounce. As a result of government action it had to be raised to $35 an ounce before conditions started to improve in the United States. Yet this afternoon that hon. gentleman was suggesting that the Minister of Finance work for a policy of that kind.

Mr. ADAMSON: There was no free market for gold in the United States. This is partly what caused the depression to take such a firm hold on the economy of the United States.

Mr. HERRIDGE: We differ in that connection.

Mr. SMITH (Calgary West): That is not in the hon. member's book, is it?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order.

Mr. HERRIDGE: Before proceeding further with my few remarks on the budget, I wish to express the appreciation of the people I represent of the government's policy of price control. I believe they all support strongly the present policy of price controls. Many of them write me from day to day and week to week, as also do organizations, urging that I emphasize that price controls be maintained and strictly maintained. When it comes to the question of bringing the Canadian dollar to parity with the United States dollar there has been some criticism of that, and possibly,