

building among the higher income groups only, evidently with the intention of providing for the lower income groups with their cast-off houses. This will mean an increase in our slum areas, for eventually the poorer families will be able to secure living accommodation only in structures not fit for human habitation. There is no economic or profitable way of providing decent housing for people who cannot afford decent housing. We will not solve this problem through reliance on profit making private enterprise. No form of trick financing will make decent houses available at rentals the lowest income groups can afford. It is only through a non-profit making state project under social control that this problem can be satisfactorily solved. It has been shown in the experience of other countries that a step in this direction has meant a step towards recovery.

Members of this group have been criticized for suggesting the necessity of fundamental changes in our economic structure. It has been said that change might lead to disorder or chaos. We are as anxious to avert disorder and chaos in Canada as any other group or party. In achieving orderly progress there are certain unalterable principles that must be adhered to, but I know of no principle more definitely established in our world than the principle of constant change. There never was a normal year which could be safely used as a pattern for other years, hence every effort to get back to the norm of past years must fail. If we do not ring out the old and ring in the new, we may be quite certain that events will ring us out. Astronomers can predict with precision to the very minute coming eclipses, because they not only study the location of the stars and the planets, but also where they are going and at what rate of speed. I suggest that we should study our business more in the terms of the changes which modern methods of business are bringing about.

The government policy suggests that the nation's work should be left as far as possible under the control of private enterprise. The evidence shows rather conclusively that the system of private enterprise, with its profit motive, and the institution of property in the means of production, is so poorly adapted to the machine age that it threatens us with disaster. A persistent attempt to maintain a system that has been proven unworkable does not make for orderly progress. Private enterprise produces not for the sake of the product or to serve the ends of human welfare, but solely for the sake of profit. It can only aim at the production and appropriation of profit. Along this line the only possible plan is a

[Mr. MacNeil.]

plan of greater profits and greater concentration of profits, a plan which necessarily must mean lowered living standards for the working class. While the entire aim of our economic mechanism is directed toward the amassing of a maximum surplus in private hands, this surplus must always defeat any attempt properly to equate production and consumption. Furthermore, private enterprise under modern conditions means the growth of monopolies, which necessarily aim at something less than the good of the entire community. From bitter experience we have learned through the years of the depression that the profits of the few have destroyed the prosperity of the many. We have learned that we cannot achieve a well ordered economy on the basis of conflict between private interests. Unregulated and competitive private enterprise sacrifices the security of one group to the superior privileges of another, and thus does not open the way to an orderly solution of our problems. We can plan for orderly progress only when we decide to establish social control of our economic enterprises and direct those enterprises not for the profits of the few, but for the prosperity of the many.

Mr. A. MacG. YOUNG (Saskatoon): I should like to join with others in this house in extending congratulations to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Dunning) on the presentation of one of the ablest budgets ever submitted to the parliament and the people of Canada. His method of presenting it left nothing to be desired. I believe that everyone, both in this house and outside, will agree when I say that we have before us a document that challenges our attention. The minister put before us very clearly and carefully a picture of affairs in this great dominion at the present time. That picture was indeed so arresting that I fancy, no matter in what part of the house we sit, we are all compelled to analyze its contents. There is one statement he made which I think is worthy of very strict attention. He said:

It is not putting it too strongly to say that foreign trade is the very lifeblood of Canada.

I might take that as a text for the first part of the remarks I have to make—it is not putting it too strongly to say that foreign trade is the very lifeblood of Canada. I must congratulate this government on having gone farther and more quickly than any other government in Canada along the line of removing those barriers that stand in the way of increased trade. The first thing we did was to negotiate a reciprocal trade agreement with the United States, and I believe that has