

The Address—Mr. A. C. Stewart

or have the market of the Ontario poultry raisers, because of the much larger population in the triangle in which your cities are located down here. These are the feelings of the president of the poultry association in Saskatchewan.

On the matter of unemployment I should like to speak briefly. Speaking particularly with respect to strikes, let me point out that in this government we have as Minister of Labour the Hon. Humphrey Mitchell. He is a labour man himself and knows about labour. It seems to me he has also a very efficient staff who are familiar with labour conditions, and who are capable of judging things as they are. In Canada today, and for the last number of years, the labour situation has been much better than in the country to the south of us. But where we have a C.C.F. or socialist government we find complaints about unemployment—and I am referring to Saskatchewan.

I hold in my hand a picture taken from the *Leader-Post*, showing some of the government's own employees out on strike. It is headed by a bunch of these young people they think so much about—or profess to think so much about. This is a strike of the Saskatchewan insurance office employees. We see that 120 employees walked out, and stayed out for a while. The signs they carry say, "Profits are high; so is the cost of living." The government was opposed to what was being made on insurance, because they said it was a monopoly. Naturally the employees wanted a share of the profits. They say they are on strike because they are not getting enough pay. On another sign we see this, "We are willing to negotiate in good faith." And on another, "You are getting the profits; we are getting low wages." And all this with a C.C.F. socialist government in Saskatchewan.

One does not find that under the Social Credit government of Alberta, because that government is giving them a little better break than in Saskatchewan.

An hon. Member: More oil.

Mr. Stewart (Yorkton): At least they allow the people in to investigate and to find oil, and do not threaten to rob them when they find it. In our province in the last five years the government has scared everybody out. Nobody would take a hundred thousand dollars to Saskatchewan, because he would be afraid he would lose it. The same is true of the bus line, and everything else. They are not putting it in, with the result that we have lost to other provinces about half of our normal increase in population. However, that situation will be cleaned up three years from now.

When I hear them talking about what they do, and do not do, in connection with social services, and all the rest of it, I am reminded that the very men who are attacking the government here, men with whom at least temporarily the Conservatives have an alliance for the purposes of this debate—

Mr. Harris (Danforth): Oh, no.

Mr. Stewart (Yorkton): Well, the hon. member for Danforth does not like my reference to an alliance, and I am glad he is sitting nearer to us than those who sit over there.

In connection with old age pensions we have had the most flagrant abuse in our province. During the last federal campaign there was sent out with every old age pensioner's cheque a slip signed by J. H. Sturdy, Minister of Social Welfare and Rehabilitation, under date of May 31, 1949—just before the election—and stating:

Dear Pensioner—

And this is just a crack at the federal government, just propaganda against the government that was paying 75 per cent of the pension.

Dear Pensioner:

You will undoubtedly have heard recently that old age and blind pensions have been increased from a maximum of \$35 a month to a maximum of \$42.50 in the province of Saskatchewan. The increase in pensions will be payable retroactive to May 1. Unfortunately the agreement with the federal government providing for the increased pension did not reach us in time to include the adjusted pension for May with the May cheques.

Just listen to this:

We are disappointed that the federal government did not authorize an increase in the allowable income, so that every pensioner might benefit more equally in the increase.

That was pure propaganda that was sent out with every old age pension cheque by the socialist government in Saskatchewan. In this legislature last session one hon. member mentioned the fact that when an old age pensioner in Saskatchewan went to a hospital part of his cheque was deducted. They were promised free hospitalization in Saskatchewan but they did not get it. It was said that it would not increase taxation, that they would take it out of the big fellows and pass it on to the small fellows. That was the propaganda that was put out in Saskatchewan.

Another hon. member was questioned last year by an hon. member over there as to whether any prosecutions had been carried out for the non-payment of the hospital tax, and the inference was that there were none. The fact is that there have been plenty of