

The Address—Mr. Low

wherein serious shortages of trained personnel and hospital and clinical facilities have very soon become apparent.

The Social Credit kind of national health program would ensure that sufficient doctors, dentists, nurses, technicians, clinics and hospital beds would be made available first to take on the work as the scheme is extended. Moreover, as the program develops care would be taken to preserve, amongst those already mentioned, these fundamental principles, and I name five of them. The first is a fair measure of individual responsibility. Let us not kid ourselves that we can give everything free to individuals and not in some way damage the nation or its morale. It just is not possible.

Second, patients must continue to have their choice of doctors and the program must guarantee that there will be no regimentation of patients, doctors, nurses or hospitals. The third important principle is that emphasis must be placed on preventive medicine, keeping people well. In this connection an intensive campaign of education should be launched to teach the people what they can and should do for themselves to keep well. Amongst other things they will have to be taught the facts about food substitutes and how the people are being gypped by millers and bakers today—not all, but by some of them—who try to make the people believe that when they buy certain kinds of bread they are getting whole wheat bread. This just is not so, and the people should know it because a certain amount of unbleached, unadulterated whole wheat products is essential to good health.

The fourth important principle is that the program must be devised by joint co-operative action of municipal, provincial and federal governments, and be administered by the first two. Fifth, there will have to be provincial and federal subsidies to keep costs down. I think a fair start has already been made in Canada, and it should be aggressively expanded and extended as rapidly as resources can be made available, consistent with sound development practices. That is the way we view this whole matter of health insurance.

I should like to say a few words in connection with the whole matter of trade and the commonwealth. The boys are leaving on a trip to London tomorrow—I wish I were going with them—and they have their work cut out for them. They have been receiving a lot of advice tonight and I suppose it would not hurt if I gave them a little more. At least I am glad I can talk to the genial Minister of Finance (Mr. Abbott) before he goes

[Mr. Low.]

because I have always said that I like him. I like to see him get along well—

Mr. Abbott: Look out.

Mr. Low: —and that is the reason I like to give him some advice. At any rate, within a few days the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance will be sitting down in London with representatives from other parts of the commonwealth to discuss and consider the whole field of commonwealth trade and finance, and perhaps other relations. We sincerely hope that the government will exhibit at that conference a considerably changed attitude toward commonwealth relations and commonwealth trade from what we think they have been exhibiting most of the time since the war ended. The Liberal government has been altogether too tough in the matter of convertibility, and they have taken a line which has gradually diminished what our trade with the other parts of the commonwealth could have been if they had used more vision and determination to strengthen commonwealth trade rather than merely to follow the line of least resistance and the lead of the United States of America.

To be completely fair about the situation, it is true that during the war the pattern of trade had to change to some degree because at that time Britain could not supply Canada's needs, in the traditional manner, of the things we had to import. However, that is no excuse for letting the pattern continue as it has during the seven years since the war ended in 1945.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that the Liberals are just now beginning to wake up to the fact that they have hitched themselves to the most uncertain market in the world, the most uncertain market for Canada—that is the market in the United States; and for all too long they have neglected to do what ought to have been done to restore Canada to the best market she ever had and the market which she ought to continue to hold if she can in the years to come. I am speaking now, Mr. Speaker, entirely from the point of view of the good of Canada when I say we should serve the best interests of our own country and the commonwealth as a whole. I think the government should hang its head in shame over the fact that Britain has had to go behind the iron curtain, to Russia, to the enemy of the free world for a number of things she has had to get such as coarse grain, lumber, and things like that which Canada could very well have supplied.

An hon. Member: That is hindsight.

Mr. Low: You can talk about hindsight but there ought to be just a little bit of vision and foresight as well.