

Anti-Inflation Policies

how, perhaps from visiting Russia where they have been doing it for years; but people have learned how to carry on building in the winter time so now there is a reasonable pace of construction in Winnipeg in winter. Construction workers are not laid off automatically as soon as winter arrives, like they used to be.

We have to conquer problems of that sort if we are ever to get away from this seasonally adjusted employment. Recently, at a meeting of the mayors of municipalities, the conclusion was reached that urban unemployment was caused by the fight against inflation. I look upon that conclusion with suspicion, unless they had later figures than have been available so far, because in their outlook for 1970 the Dominion Bureau of Statistics stated that the total capital spending intentions for the current year appear to be a 7 per cent increase to about \$17.6 billion, which would include some price inflation. Thus, it seems to me that the statistics provide no evidence that the slowdown in capital investment has contributed to rising unemployment in urban areas generally.

The particular mayor who made that statement is the Mayor of Saskatoon. It is possible he has a very serious problem because of conditions in Saskatchewan; but again I say, let us not confuse his problem with the fight against inflation. Let us get to the root of the matter which is to secure world markets for the produce which western farmers have been growing in the expectation they could sell anything they could grow. This survey by DBS showed that the Atlantic provinces expected a 6 per cent increase in capital spending; Quebec, about 6 per cent; British Columbia, about 14 per cent; and the prairies about the same as before, no increase. So, it does not appear that inflation is the culprit here.

I think it was particularly tragic, in view of the association that the New Democratic Party has with labour movements, that Mr. Walter Reuther should have made such a blunt and critical attack upon the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) at a recent meeting in the United States. In the first place, as a Canadian, I find it very annoying to hear a man, whether he is a labour union leader, a capitalist or a functionary in the government of a foreign country, make a personal attack on the Prime Minister of my country. If I were a member of another party, I would feel the same way. The Prime Minister of our country is our Prime Minister no matter of what

party he is a member, at present and I do not like to hear foreigners criticizing him.

I took the trouble to look up a few facts in relation to this attack and I find that whoever advised Mr. Reuther misinformed him. One of the allegations he made was that the Prime Minister deliberately attempted to cut down health and welfare programs and to somehow or other undermine provincial efforts in this direction. Again, the figures prove this not to be so. In this year's estimates we have \$156 million new dollars going into fiscal transfers, \$95 million new dollars into hospitals, \$70 million into medicare, \$49 million into post secondary education, \$38 million into the Canada Assistance Plan; and there are increases in regular federal programs that are very close to health and welfare such as regional economic expansion, Indian affairs, and manpower development, which amount to \$135 million or \$140 million. So, the next time an important foreign labour leader—who has, I think, in many ways done a very fine job for his own people—starts sounding off about our Prime Minister, I hope he takes care that he gets better information.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): He is telling the truth.

Mr. Osler: I do not know how one can bang this into some people's heads. I have made my point by giving figures, and yet I hear someone say that what the man said was true. It seems very difficult. However, the facts will be on the record.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): A working man like you knows all about labour.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre (Mr. Osler) has the floor.

Mr. Osler: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I consider that some people work in some ways, other people work in other ways, and some people happen to be employed at the moment and others are not. The hon. member for Cape Breton-The Sydneys and I, luckily, both happen to be employed at present; so his remark was irrelevant if it was personal.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): I was unemployed many times under the Grits.

Mr. Osler: You are having better luck this time.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): The people see to that.