

Increased Cost of Living

in the Atlantic provinces, as in other parts of Canada, who do not enjoy the full advantages of being a Canadian in the 1960's. I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that their cause is not helped one little bit, in fact, it is hindered, by the demagogic approach used yesterday by the leader of the New Democratic Party.

Does the hon. gentleman not recall that during the past few years much legislation has been introduced aimed specifically at the problems he discussed in his ill-advised speech yesterday? The results of this legislation have in many cases been dramatic and favourable. In other cases, the results are still disappointing. I can give many examples of significant results which have been achieved. There is the ARDA program, introduced by the previous administration and which is in fact one of the great concepts put forward by the opposition when they were in office. This concept has been enlarged by the present administration.

I point, Mr. Speaker, to the problems of the province of New Brunswick. Has the leader of the New Democratic Party any information about the progress that is being made, the plans that have been announced and the work already started in the province of New Brunswick to increase opportunities among the people of the province? I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that the new approaches, the real, practical, progressive approaches, which have been introduced to solve the problems in New Brunswick redound to the credit of the present administration and to the credit of this parliament for enacting the kind of law needed. Credit must also be given to the dynamic leadership of the Liberal premier of New Brunswick, Hon. Louis Robichaud.

My good friend from Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands (Mr. Cameron) last night introduced some questions about Newfoundland, and the report of the Economic Council. I was able to point out to him at the time that Newfoundland took second place to no province in recognizing the value of what was contained in last year's report of the Economic Council. Indeed, they did not have to wait for that report to recognize the tremendous importance of education in the continuing battle against poverty.

Perhaps the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands is not as informed as he might be on the developments in that province in connection with education. We have not only free education for our university students in the province, but the government of Newfoundland is now paying salaries to

[Mr. Cashin.]

people to attend university. I think this is a great, progressive step.

Newfoundland still has many problems in this area, perhaps more than any other part of Canada. But let me point to the record of achievement of the past 17 years, and to the fact that a Liberal government has remained in office in that province for 17 years. This government has not lost its enthusiasm or its idealism. It has been able, with the co-operation of the federal government, to introduce programs and policies which are aimed at the very problem which the leader of the New Democratic Party said has been completely ignored.

As I listened to his speech, Mr. Speaker, it was almost as if I were listening to someone who had never before set foot on earth, who had never before been in touch with reality. It was as if all of a sudden he had descended upon earth from some other solar system, as a member of some other race of men—if that is what they have up there—who were advanced far beyond the civilization we are apt to achieve in this country even in the next century. The hon. gentleman deplored what was happening.

Similarly, it was almost as if you yourself, Mr. Speaker, had been carried away on a cloud and deposited in some far corner of Asia Minor in the year 7000 B.C. and had thereupon been called on to deliver an address. How realistic would your address have been in relation to the practical problems which those poor souls in Asia Minor had to cope with in those days, Mr. Speaker?

If this kind of approach on the part of the hon. gentleman is born of innocence, Mr. Speaker, then we forgive it. But if it is an attempt to discredit the very institutions that have made this country great, then we deplore it. I leave it to you, Mr. Speaker, and to other members to decide which is the case; it is not for me to say.

I could go on at great length, and if time permits I may do so, with regard to other policies and programs in the field of social welfare. No government of any other country on earth—and it is this planet that we are dealing with, Mr. Speaker; it is the problems confronting those on this planet we are talking about—has done as much during the last three years in the field of social security as this government.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Cashin: I hear laughter, but I am not surprised. When for the first time in this