

*Government Monetary Policy*

adopt policies of a democratic socialist type, or policies based on a democratic socialist philosophy, introducing measures which will alleviate unemployment and protect workers in both industry and agriculture as far as this can be done. This is where the government has failed. It has followed blindly an unreasoning faith that prosperity is just around the corner, that business will quickly pick up again, and that this is all that is necessary to keep the economy going.

In January, 1958 the C.C.F. developed some ideas regarding what could be done to deal with the state of our economy as far as we could see the situation at that time. This was at a period when the Prime Minister of this nation was solely concerned about juggling things in order to get re-elected. One of the things we advocated then was:

To undertake in co-operation with provincial and local governments work on public projects which could be started immediately. This would create new jobs in the quickest possible time.

Following that, we found the government had introduced a winter works program. Another thing we advocated at the time was:

To undertake a joint federal-provincial program to set up facilities on a permanent, year-round basis to retrain those workers who have become unemployed because of technological changes in industry.

We have just, during this session, seen the introduction of legislation along those lines by the Minister of Labour in his vocational training bill. If this had been done three years ago it would have helped immeasurably at the present time. In 1958 we also urged the desirability of long-range planning and an attempt to co-ordinate activities in the field of business in order to protect the interests of workmen and their families, and to provide them with the highest possible standard of food, clothing, shelter and education, besides ensuring that their standard of living was not decreased because of the inaction of the government.

Well, a conference on unemployment was called. It was designed to bring together various economic groups in the nation, and it was hoped that something valuable would emerge out of the discussions. The only thing that developed was the national productivity council, which cannot do one blessed thing about unemployment right now; first of all because it does not even exist at present and, second, because it is a long range effort in any event.

The Minister of Labour has said that the problem of unemployment is not his responsibility. His responsibility ceased the day after the last election, but will be revived, I am sure, a few days before the next election, whenever that may come. The Minister

[Mr. Howard.]

of Labour, obviously with the complete approval of his colleagues in the cabinet, says it is now labour and management which should get together and set about overcoming our difficulties. It is a commendable and a desirable thing for labour and management to discuss their problems and attempt to reach some mutually satisfactory way of dealing with them in order to improve the economy and promote employment. But, I submit, the Minister of Labour is either speaking with his tongue in his cheek or he is particularly naive when he speaks in this vein. Management is not going to sit down with labour or anybody else and talk about fields of activity within the corporate structure. The stand taken by management has always been to resist every step of the way every attempt by a trade union to concern itself with what management calls its God-given right to manage, and to resist every step of the way the desire of unions to talk to management about anything.

You will remember, Mr. Speaker, that many years ago management did not even want to talk with trade unions. That was the position; and it took a law, introduced in the United States, to alter this position. That law said that management must sit down with labour and bargain collectively. That kind of contact arose, therefore, only out of force of circumstances and government protection.

Talk to management about discussing with labour these fields of productivity and prices, and they will tell you it is none of their business. They will not talk to the unions about their profit picture. That is something inviolate, something the corporations want to keep to themselves. They will not talk about the corporate debt picture and take suggestions from labour or anyone else as to whether they should finance their operations in a different way. They will not talk about the amounts placed in their depreciation accounts. They say this is their business and no business of labour. They will not talk about further borrowings, or dividend payments; they would never listen to suggestions that these were too great or too little. They will refuse to talk about expansion into the processing industries and a variety of other equally important subjects. This business of labour and management sitting down and discussing the entire productivity question is a dream. As far as management is concerned it is not in the least interested in discussing these things with labour, and this has been the situation for many years.

**Mr. Macdonnell:** I apologize for interrupting the hon. member, and if he does not agree I will take my seat at once, but I should