

Government member of the House of Commons, when speaking over the radio about a week ago, said the prospects for 1957 were good. Indeed he thought this would be Canada's best year yet. Then the Prime Minister, when addressing the Canadian Construction Association banquet at Toronto on Monday night, said there is going to be a levelling off. I wish they would get together and make up their minds as to what will happen, then get down to brass tacks and see what can be done about it.

The Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Macdonald) told us the other day that Canada sold for cash 150 million dollars' worth more wheat in 1956 than it did in 1955. That is very good indeed. Then the Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Haig) drew attention to the fact that we buy more goods from the United States than we sell to that country. I do not know whether we can improve that situation. One of the imports that I know about is printing machinery—printing presses, stereotype machines, typesetting machines, and so on. It is very expensive equipment and there is none made in this country. If we want to expand the printing industry and the newspaper publishing business, we must have this machinery and we must bring it in from the United States. Some years ago an attempt was made to manufacture typesetting machinery at Windsor and, I think, at Niagara Falls, but it did not work out. The manufacturers could not make machines of the required quality and keep up to date with all the new improvements, as can be done at Brooklyn, New York, where some of the biggest printing machinery companies operate. They have a large market, and that is where we have to buy.

I should like to quote from the speech made by the honourable Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Macdonald) in the Senate last Thursday. Dealing with inflation, he said, as reported on page 42 of *Hansard*:

I feel that if these inflationary tendencies are not checked in some way the situation could be one that might snowball into enormous proportions and have terrible consequences for many years to come.

I wish our respected leader had been a little more specific and told us what the terrible consequences will be if these inflationary tendencies are not checked.

Then he said:

The Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Haig) has given his warning, and I give my warning, too.

I made this note: "All right, what is to be done? What is the answer to this? Is it that we should stop buying and have unemployment, or go on doing as we are doing now?"

Honourable senators, you can tell pretty well how the public is buying when you see

column after column of advertising in the big daily newspapers. And the reports of the large department stores in our various cities reflect the tremendous increase in their business last year over that of the preceding year. This trend is continuing in 1957.

Now, what is the answer? Should we stop all this? Will it be dangerous not to stop it? I should like to ask a further question, but I do not think anybody will answer it. Does the Minister of Finance decide these things? Does it make any difference whether we have a Conservative Government or a Liberal Government, or does the Treasury Board, a group of experts—I am told there are a hundred of them—sit down and decide what we shall do and what we shall not do? Or are the decisions made by the Department of Finance and by the Cabinet? I do not know, and I wonder about it. I am sometimes inclined to think these decisions are made by the experts who advise the Minister of Finance. I should like to know what they think should be done to control inflation.

At Kingston we are going to have a new Government building costing about \$1 million. We need it. Government officials there are located in a number of buildings. The Post Office and Customs House buildings were erected in 1857, exactly one hundred years ago. As the need for office space grew, the basement of one building was used, and also the attic, but there still is not room enough. The Income Tax employees were housed in the Empire Life building. Then the Empire Life Company expanded and took over the space, so the Income Tax people moved to quarters above a store. Later on, Excise officials took over the space that had been used by the Income Tax branch. That kind of thing has been going on at Kingston for the last ten or fifteen years. Like most industrial cities in Ontario, it is suffering from growing pains. More space has to be found for larger staffs or they will not be able to operate efficiently.

Now, if the construction of Government buildings is not going to be stopped—and I do not suggest it should be—are we going to stop the construction of other types of buildings? Are we to stop people from buying? That is a question I would like to have answered.

I come now to a more congenial subject, the creation of a Canada Council for the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. I might say that the two paragraphs which interest me most in the Speech from the Throne are paragraphs 14 and 15. I was very pleased when I read about the generous treatment which the Government is proposing in order to give a new impetus to the development of Canadian scholarship and culture. As a