

Increased Cost of Living

find that it was drafted by the leader of the New Democratic Party. When I read the amendment my first reaction was, surely the author has not seen or is unwilling to see what has in fact occurred in Canada within the past few years; otherwise this must be an amendment introduced by some creature from outer space from such an advanced and developed society that it regards the development taking place here in this country as rather unimportant.

It seems to me that the little band of malcontents in the far corner of the house, who confuse complaint with reform have made a very serious and unfortunate error in introducing an amendment of this kind because they are seriously affecting their own credibility. It seems they are deluded by their own record and by the recent and perhaps fleeting fluctuations in the Gallup poll. Surely any Canadian who reads this amendment will believe that this little band of not always happy warriors who sit in the far corner of the house are completely divorced from reality.

Surely I can speak with some first-hand knowledge about what they refer to as the government's failure to produce an equitable distribution of rising productivity and national income. It is my suggestion that the government has done nothing less than that which makes it the most impressive government this country has ever seen. Anyone who believes otherwise is ignoring the facts. If hon. gentlemen opposite suggest that notwithstanding the progress that has been made with exceptional results in the past three years there is still much to be done, I would concur. If we are to have a meaningful institution with meaningful debate, it is within that context that we must conduct our debate.

The writing off in one fell swoop of much of the legislation passed in this House of Commons, supported by hon. gentlemen down in that corner, is an example of malignant myopia, to say the least. Let me take a fleeting look at some of the accomplishments in this field over the past three years. I could quote statistics of employment in the Atlantic region. In 1960 7.7 per cent or 44,000 Canadians in those four provinces were unemployed and 530,000 were working. Today there are 610,000 people employed in those provinces which represents a gain of 80,000 jobs.

Mr. Webb: What about 1957?

Mr. Cashin: The hon. member, like most New Democratic members, if that was a New Democratic voice—

[Mr. Cashin.]

• (9:50 p.m.)

An hon. Member: It was not a New Democrat.

Mr. Cashin: I thought it was a New Democrat who interjected but I am told it was a Tory. I apologize for my mistake. I sometimes find it very easy to confuse the two parties. The more traditional element of the Tory party, such as is represented by the hon. member who has just interjected, seems to have something in common with the more dichotomic section of the New Democratic Party. That party is not successful now and will be less successful in time to come. They appear sometimes to be looking forward but do not really go anywhere, whereas hon. gentlemen opposite in the Tory party do not go anywhere at any time.

In the last few years 80,000 new jobs have been created in the Atlantic region. There are still 28,000 people unemployed. This figure is too high. I suggest that we will improve this situation by continuing to support the imaginative policies which this government has introduced in the last three years and will continue to introduce. The alleged saviours of mankind, the little band down in the corner, have not even heard of the existence of the Atlantic Development Board; at least, this is the impression I get from what they say.

The Atlantic Development Board was conceived originally in a very narrow concept by the previous administration and strengthened immensely by the present administration. We gave it the tools with which to do the job. Already it has not only distributed \$100 million in the Atlantic region for worth-while projects and improved the economic infrastructure of the area, but at the same time it is developing a competent group of civil servants who are working closely with the various provincial governments within the area in an attempt to win the battle against poverty, increase productivity and ensure a greater distribution of the wealth of this country amongst its people.

The Atlantic Development Board is only one thing that has been done to improve conditions in my area. There have been many others. These are examples of good, imaginative, reform policies entered into by this administration. In fact, Mr. Speaker, there have been so many of them that the thunder of the New Democratic Party has been stolen; they now have no new policies to put forward. In fact, if they do have the occasional good policy I say to them: By all means bring it forward and it will be a Liberal government that