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Steel Company Economist Opposes Health Insurance

A strong warning against endangering Canada's financial and industrial position through the adoption of a tax supported national health insurance scheme was given by Stuart Armour, economic advisor to the president, The Steel Company of Canada, Limited, in a speech given Tuesday, February 21, to the Rotary Club of Montreal.

"One wonders," said Mr. Armour, "whence the authority is derived for this new attempt to saddle our already heavily-loaded economy with yet another burden. . . . The cost of health insurance must be an added burden upon the fruits of our industrial production and so raise the costs of such production. As costs rise, the ability of our industries in Ontario to compete at home and abroad is further jeopardized."

Mr. Armour, who entitled his address "Who's Loony Now?", pointed out several other proposals that in his opinion were symptoms of economic lunacy. He referred to a program of demands recently issued by the CIO-CCL Hamilton Labor Council, which included old-age pensions, without means test, of \$75 a month, for all males at age 65 and all females at age 60. "The additional—repeat—additional—yearly cost of the pension proposal alone," said the speaker, "would be more than \$982 million. Old-age pensions are already costing the people of Canada more than \$350 million a year. So if the Hamilton Labor Council had its way, then the total yearly pension cost to Canadians would be about one billion, three hundred and forty million dollars."

The economic danger of such proposals and of other government expenditures that are facts, such as aiding foreign nations, selling wheat and butter to the communists at less than the cost of production, etc., is that they are inflationary, adding to everyone's cost of living and increasing the cost of new industrial facilities Canada must continually provide to keep level with competitors in world markets. Quoting from the Stelco brief to the Gordon Commission, the speaker said: "Inflation has so altered the value of the dollar that replacement costs tend to be substantially higher than the amounts provided to meet such costs."

Mr. Armour found symptoms of lunacy in almost all departments of Canadian life, encouraged by so-called intellectuals who had worked themselves into positions of authority. "Our attitudes towards education and law enforcement," he said, "have undoubtedly been influenced by a species recognized as the anti-capitalist intellectual, of which it has been said he is a creature of capitalist development, but breeds a social atmosphere of code of values which is highly critical of private enterprise and the profit system."

The atmosphere of lunacy, he thought, extended to the political field. "The Liberals, having passed through a most active inflationary socialist state, are now relatively Conservative. The Conservatives are now competing with the socialists to see who can push the liberals furthest and fastest into more statism. Professedly Conservative provincial premiers now appear to be far more socialistic in their actions and objectives than the CCF premier of Saskatchewan — perhaps because the latter is now said to operate drive-in movies for a profit. Ross Thatcher, elected as a socialist, is virtually the only outspoken upholder of private enterprise in Parliament."

Canadians, Mr. Armour thought, were too inclined to look on at the strange antics of politicians with amused complacency, but he felt that there was nothing funny in it, but much that was dangerous. "As a nation," he said, "we seem to have lost our capacity for moral indignation. Consequently we allow politicians to do things to us, allegedly on our behalf, which seem bound in the long run to change our cherished way of life."

"Our unprecedented position in the world today is one result of our way of life, and we should all regard ourselves as standing in a trustee relationship to it. Instead, we seem in grave danger of handing on to our children and their children a spiritual heritage poorer than that we ourselves received from our forebears."

"Is it not time that this generation of Canadians re-asserted its right to self-government? If we do not re-assert that right, are we not proving untrue to those who have gone before?"

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THE MAIL BAG

Transfusion Refusal Ca'n't Justify Death

Dear Sir:

I read with interest the letter in your last issue dealing with the Jehovah's Witness stand on transfusions. However I must disagree with the writer's attempt to justify a death.

The statement is made "that one of the greatest commandments of God is that we must not feed on either the blood of animals or man." This law was given to the Jewish people over 3600 years ago, and we must understand it in the light of the history of that era. The Jews were surrounded by pagan tribes believing in many gods and it was the custom of these tribes to sacrifice animals on their altars and drink the blood.

It was to dissuade the Jews from this practice that the law was given. There are several references to this in the Bible, but there are also other laws. Is not a greater one "Thou shalt not kill?" By interpretation this means yourself as well as others.

Again we find in Lev. 19:27 the following: "Ye shall not round the corners of your heads, neither shalt thou mar the corners of thy beard." I must confess that I have yet to see a Jehovah's Witness with long hair and beard.

Jesus himself condemned the Jews for a too strict observance of the law. Did he not heal on the Sabbath, contrary to the teaching of the time?

We as Christians can only hope for the Life Everlasting through the mercy of Our Lord Jesus. We cannot "work our way" and we do not deserve it.

Yours very truly,
—David Hastings.

FARM NEWS

Ashville Cattle Place Well in Dominica Show

J. E. W.

Halton Holstein fraternity will be interested to learn that recently Ashville Farms Ltd. sent four head of cattle down to the International Peace Show in the Dominican Republic, with Hays Ltd. in charge. All four cattle were sired by their former herd sire M. G. Sovereign Ormsby and constituted the winning Get of Sire Group in the show. Individually, Ashville Sovereign Gil which animal showed locally as a junior yearling, in 1955, won the two year old male class and went on to take the reserve grand award. Old Rosemary was the 3rd prize aged cow and her half sister Eve was in the fifth spot. Margo, another half sister was second in a class of sixteen 3 to 5 year olds. At the conclusion of the sale they were sold privately at a reported \$3200 figure. Heartiest congratulations are extended to the Pelletterio family on this achievement which goes to show that there is still a market for good cattle.

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FAMOUS AUTHOR VISITS SOUTHERN ONTARIO—Fourteen years after the publication of his best selling study of the Canadian scene, The Unknown Country, author-editor Bruce Hutchison (shown working in his study at his Victoria home) is completing a second coast-to-coast report, to be published in fifteen instalments in Maclean's magazine. He recently visited Ontario, touring the entire province for material that appears in the March 3rd issue. To gather material for the series, Hutchison, editor of the Victoria Times and author of the Incredible Canadian and The Struggle for the Border, travelled twenty thousand miles throughout the nation.

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