

Halton Member Makes Important Speech in Commons

Speaking on a government bill to establish a National Productivity Council, Halton M.P. Sandy, last week was praised by the Prime Minister for his comprehensive analysis of the economics of productivity.

Mr. Speaker, I should like to make some brief comments on Bill No. C-52 which is before us at this moment. This important measure is one which in my opinion, has captured great interest throughout our country. We have heard this afternoon three most interesting speeches on this matter. I feel that the speech of the Prime Minister was a most powerful exposition of the bill that is before us, and explained in great measure the hopes and ideas as to the future part this council might play in our country.

I think we were all pleased as well to hear the stimulating and interesting speech of the hon. member for Niagara Falls (Miss LaMarsh). In this, her first speech in the House of Commons, she certainly presented her ideas in an interesting fashion. Among her remarks I noted the thought expressed — and I believe this statement was made the other evening as well by the hon. member for Ottawa West (Mr. McIlraith) — that we should perhaps not connect too closely the British productivity council with the council we propose to establish in Canada. I can only say that it would seem amiss indeed if our government did not compare our proposed new council to some extent with similar bodies in other countries around the world. It would be most amazing if we did not do that.

The hon. member for Niagara Falls made remarks to the effect that the British council was established to make more goods available, and that there was no problem of unemployment at that time, she continued that we had a reverse problem here in Canada. We have many goods to market but we have an unemployment problem. We have men and women left over, so to speak. It seems to me that surely these two matters, even if we admit to the basic truth of them, are not far apart at all. It seems to me that the crucial problem in Canada is to do things better, more cheaply and faster, and that process in turn will make for more employment, and that this thought in turn is partly the responsibility, the idea behind the reasoning behind the productivity council we have in mind.

can make for unemployment, and decreed technology on that basis. To me this suggestion seems to be an example of retrograde thinking. Indeed, it seems to me that we need to sell more, to make things more cheaply, our rapidly and in the key in the long run, and indeed in the short run, to more employment and more sales throughout Canada and outside our country as well.

I do not think this evening of opinion on the part of the hon. lady is compatible with the extremely progressive constituency from which she comes. I believe it is much more compatible with the ideas and the thinking, rigid and inflexible as it is, of the party into which she has fallen.

I noted the other evening the remarks of the hon. member for Ottawa West. At one stage he said that the Liberal party had voiced support in the House of Commons and ideas of a productivity council. He mentioned that last spring, the idea really was that of the opposition Liberal party. No mention was made, of course, of what the hon. member for Vancouver Centre said or the ideas voiced by him at an earlier stage in this House. The hon. member for Ottawa West went on to say that this idea of a productivity council was really based on the 1958 campaign platform of the Liberal party. He added that it actually came from something called the Pearson plan, supplemented and bolstered by visions of the hon. member for Essex East (Mr. Martin). He was really giving most grudging approval to the measure before the House. It was approval, but it was given in inches, and fractions of inches, and in most minute amounts.

It seems to us on this side of the House, that opposition may have at least a partially salutary effect on the Liberal party. However, it is only when their party is in opposition, and that after a generation of having authority to bring in new measures of this sort, we see them now giving grudging approval to the many new plans that we have brought forward in the last few weeks and months.

have read many varying and contradictory remarks about productivity. They come from labour organizations, manufacturers, various groups which may have rather different objectives than mine. I would hope this new council would have as one of its purposes some measure of stability to give really definite figures as to productivity in various industries and various types of activity throughout our country.

Productivity has been defined as well in various reports. One of them, the so-called Gordon commission report, has an interesting chapter on this subject and discusses it in some detail. It refers to productivity as the ratio of total output to output, and goes on to discuss the relationship of labour to these figures. The gross domestic product of any given industry in a year may be regarded as the output, and the number of man hours employed as that industry in the year in question, with no distinction made between regular hours and overtime hours. These are some of the methods and terms by which productivity may be compared and examined. In other words, we are really talking about gross domestic production per man hour. Perhaps the best explanation for our term "productivity" is:

Why do we say that the productivity is important in Canada? This is perhaps an obvious question, and the answers are equally obvious. We are a country of tremendous importing and exporting needs and capabilities. In a country as small as Canada, with our ribbonlike population, and our tremendous distribution areas, productivity must be a keystone to a healthy and successful economy. It seems to me that in Canada productivity really must mean efficiency, it must mean efficient production. In other words, efficiency must be almost synonymous with the term "productivity". We need productivity in our internal markets. We are faced today with a tremendous challenge of imported goods from Britain, Europe and Asia. I think that challenge will grow and will not diminish in the immediate years ahead. The tremendous necessity that we have for these goods is one of the reasons productivity is so important to Canada.

I have mentioned that we have a small population. We have tremendous distribution costs. All these things make for a large overhead in Canada. Indeed, if we are faced, as we sometimes are by restrictions imposed by other countries on the income of our manufacturers and other goods, and if

we must depend entirely on a local domestic Canadian market, our overhead may indeed be large and fixed and very difficult for many Canadian manufacturers and people in other businesses to work under.

The United States, for example, a neighbour of ours, has a rather different problem. Their dependence on exports and imports is perhaps roughly one tenth of ours, a factor something like the population ratio between our two countries. Their tremendous population and perhaps little greater distribution costs make for an overhead that is not comparable to that faced by many Canadian businessmen.

Mr. Speaker, what makes for greater productivity in Canada? The Prime Minister has stated previously that we have seen a resurgence in the war torn countries of western Europe, and indeed Japan, into the commercial markets of the world. I might say that in a strange sense productivity may be a horrible thing, but we have seen increased productivity arise as a secondary effect of terrible and destructive wars. I believe we have seen this in some countries of western Europe. I believe it is the result of a resurgence in certain countries which did not suffer such terrible ravages of their homelands and industries. They have more troubles today, perhaps, in their industries than they are in the industries of other countries which were more completely razed by the war.

We have seen a period of resurgence in Germany through the compulsion of the times and the facts of life. Germany had to rebuild much of her heavy industry from the ground up. This terrible toll was paid, in a sense, and a decade or 15 years later, through her dependence on new plants, new machinery and new ideas, that country and other countries like her — perhaps Japan is an example — have put on a competitive or superior footing with other countries of western Europe and indeed, with ourselves here in North America. War is a terrible thing, but it has a second effect — a very direct effect on the productivity of a country in the years that follow.

Other things, of course, make for productivity. The strenuous competition that is facing us in Canada today might be said to be an example — have put on a competitive or superior footing with other countries of western Europe and indeed, with ourselves here in North America. War is a terrible thing, but it has a second effect — a very direct effect on the productivity of a country in the years that follow.

The Liberal party talks about technology and how increased technology would result in more employment. I say we need increased technology, and we need a great deal of it. Mr. Martin (Essex East): When did the Liberal party ever say that?

Mr. East: The competition we are facing in Canada today is forcing our hand. We must

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10 and 25 YEARS AGO ECHOES

From the Pages of the Herald
December 17th, 1958 and
January 1, 1956

10 YEARS AGO
One of Georgetown's worst fire disasters in many years wrecked a local grocery and meat store and left two families homeless when fire broke out early last Wednesday morning. Damage estimated at \$25,000 was caused to Buck's Fine Foods and the two apartments above and there was smoke damage in the adjoining McGibbon Hotel as well.

25 YEARS AGO
Winners of the Recall boys and girls contest at Robby Drug Store were: Girls, 1st, Ruby Mitchell, 2nd, Marie Lorrain, 3rd, Pauline Tyers, 4th, June Hillier. Boys, 1st, Bob Mackenzie, 2nd, Roy Smith, 3rd, Bryan Terry, 4th, Gordon King.

Georgetown's Intermediate Hockey team got into action last week when zero weather made the arena ideal. The Georgetown team played Oakville and came out on the short end of a 3-2 score. Lined up with the local team were: goal, Alcott; defence, Anthony and Zimmer; centre, Tost, wings, Ward and Cripps; subs, Hall, Sargent and Riddell.

Last Saturday afternoon Chief W. G. Marshall arrested a lady from Toronto on information from the local branch of the Bank of Montreal that she answered the description of a woman who had cashed forged cheques in several banks in the Toronto district.

POOR MAN
After what seemed like hours a white-robed doctor emerged from the examination room and addressed himself to Mr. Jones. "Mr. Jones, your wife has quinsy."

"My gosh!" said Jones, before he fainted. "That makes 15!"

HUTCH'S SMOKE SHOP
Richardson's Hardware
15 Main St. S. TR. 7-3501

Attendance Prizes are Given at Union Church

The Union Church Christmas party December 26th, opened with carol singing for all. Following the group singing, recitations were given by David and Leslie Dolson.

When the musical members had their turn. Both Clara Dolson and Robert Froat performed accordion solos. The piano next took the limelight with solos by Gwendolyn MacDonald, Sharon Leslie, Mary Dolson and Margaret Ostrander. In addition to playing the piano, Miss Ostrander sang for the gathering.

The impromptu entertainment concluded with the Senior Mission Band reading a Christmas story and singing carols. Prizes for perfect attendance in the Senior Class went to Edith MacDonald and Jowen MacDonald, while other attendance prizes in this class were awarded Terry Leslie and Dianne McKane.

In the Intermediate Class Joan MacDonald and Kenneth Leslie received the Perfect Attendance prize, with Marian Young and Sharon Leslie receiving other attendance prizes. In the Junior class, Gwendolyn MacDonald was the sole winner of the perfect attendance prize closely followed by Charlotte Young.

HEARLY TOP CHINA
The six million citizens of Ontario last year consumed as much electric energy as the 670 million people of mainland China.

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WALTER T. EVANS & CO.
We sincerely hope that the New Year ushers in much happiness for you and a new era of lasting peace and good will for all the world.
MILL ST. GEORGETOWN

A Very Happy New Year

GEORGETOWN DAIRY
GUELPH STREET

JOY AND PEACE FOR 1961

For '61, we've a wish sincere for you and those whom you hold dear. May the days of the coming year bring you peace and joy and all good cheer.

HAPPY NEW YEAR
THE STAFF OF **SCOTT MOTORS**

NEW YEAR Wishes
May you get the big part of the year's
• Happiness
• Enjoyment
• Success
• Prosperity
WILSON'S GROCERY
STEWARTTOWN Triangle 7-4102

JOE'S TUCK SHOP
27 MAIN ST. N. TR. 7-3301

New Year's Greetings
Happy holiday... today and everyday... and a year of abundance and success to you and your family.
NASH & McDOWELL
Plumbing & Heating
16 Orchard Blvd. TR. 7-2842

Happy New Year
Best wishes for a bright new beginning — a chance to get things done in '61! Here's to all your plans and projects, may they all come to fruition — may you be blessed with good health, good fortune, and great happiness this New Year!
George Hewson
John Ord
Fred Helson

Happy New Year!
Wishing you good luck in everything!
HALTON CO-OP SUPPLIES
GUELPH STREET

THE GEORGETOWN 5c to \$1.00 AND STAFF

HAPPY New Year
In ringing tones we send you our warmest wishes for a joyful and prosperous 1961.
John T. Armstrong INSURANCE
John T. Armstrong, CIU
Paul C. Armstrong