

*Unemployment*

orders would be issued, the plants would be built, and the men and women would be employed. Why does the government not take care of the 998,660 homes in Canada that do not have inside toilets?

If we needed warships, we would have them. Why cannot the government assist in providing electricity to the 443,000 homes in Canada which have no electricity? If we needed medical care, clothing, ammunition and transportation for a million men and women in the armed forces tomorrow, this government would supply them and would do so mighty fast. If necessary they would exert extraordinary powers to accomplish this. In a time of peace, when the men and women and the factories are available, and when the House of Commons is in session and can pass any immediate legislation that is required, why can we not take care of the 1,200,000 homes in Canada that have no refrigerators of any kind; the 938,000 homes that have no vacuum cleaners of any kind; the 1,400,000 homes that have no telephones, and the 2,000,000 people who have no cars?

That is not rhetoric, Mr. Speaker; it is fact. We have the resources. We have the men and women with the brains and brawn. We have the machinery of production and distribution. We have the democratic parliament. Why is it that the government is not prepared to move in a war against poverty, depression and unemployment when it is prepared to move in a fighting war? I ask that every hon. member who supports this government in its inaction ask himself this question.

I believe one of the reasons is that this present government has never had a plan. Its policies are confusion confounded or confounding confusion, whichever way you want to put it. For some reason best known to themselves they have advanced confusing policies, with the result that private industry itself, which wants to get to work, has not been able to get to work because it did not understand government policy and also because this government has not exercised sufficient initiative to give a lead to Canadian industry and Canadian investment. We should have more in the way of secondary industry, and do more in the way of utilizing our own natural resources, instead of exporting our natural resources as raw material and then importing the finished product.

Mr. Speaker, I said there are policies of confusion confounded, and there are. A few weeks ago in this house I mentioned the fact that there were companies in the shipbuilding industry where we have thousands of unemployed, thousands of skilled men and women out of work, but that this country

was not permitted to build ships for certain other countries. The Minister of Trade and Commerce and in particular the senior member for Halifax (Mr. Dickey) endeavoured to give an answer. What was the answer given in this house by the senior member for Halifax? I presume that what he pointed out was government policy. In a quotation from some communication he stated that the department had advised some firm as follows, and I quote from the second column of page 1386 of *Hansard*, part of the speech of the senior hon. member for Halifax:

Perhaps you would be good enough to inform us if your clients are prepared to place firm orders with you on the basis of detailed specifications.

Mr. Speaker, since the hon. member for Halifax placed this statement on the record I take it that was the government viewpoint and government policy; would this firm advise the Department of Trade and Commerce as to whether their clients were prepared to place firm orders on the basis of detailed specifications. If that is the policy it certainly is confusing, because that is exactly opposite to the policy enunciated only a few weeks previously by the same department in connection with the same firm. I have here copies of two letters. Here is one dated January 3 from the Department of Trade and Commerce, foreign trade service. I want to quote this one section. It is to the same firm and it says:

We would, therefore, suggest that in the case of any items on the export control list which you wish to ship to destinations other than the United States or in the case of any shipments whatsoever to area control destinations, you consult us for a ruling before you go after firm business. A telegram, a letter or 'phone call in this regard would enable us to give you a speedy ruling.

That is not the only one. I quote from a letter dated December 27, also from the Department of Trade and Commerce to the same firm. What does it say?

It would be wise to make sure that an export permit would be granted before you go after the business and obtain firm orders. It is possible to obtain export permits before business is obtained.

I am quoting from copies of letters sent out by the Department of Trade and Commerce to people interested in bringing new business to the Dominion of Canada, to the shipyards of eastern and western Canada. They are told by the Department of Trade and Commerce, "See us first about export permits; see us before you ever go after any firm business". Then on the floor of the House of Commons we are told by the senior member for Halifax, quoting from something else, "Get firm business first".

That is enough, Mr. Speaker, to show the confusion that must exist in this department. If that is an example of the way in which