

*Alleged Failure of Employment Policies*

is an abundance of goods. But we have people out of work who cannot purchase them. I suggest a parallel between now and the early 1950's simply is not valid.

Another indicator that one would assume an intelligent man would look for to see if we were significantly threatened by inflation would be the export figures. The evidence, however, is encouraging. For example, I checked the figures for one month ago and found that our exports are up 16 per cent over the same period a year ago. So that our exports are not diminishing.

The third example of the intellectual incompetence and moral dishonesty of the government on the question of inflation is the refusal to state openly to the Canadian people that the overwhelming cause of our inflation is the almost virtual integration of our economy with that of the United States. When the United States is undergoing inflationary pressure, we get it too as an inevitable by-product, and it is time that the government said so honestly.

If the government wanted to do something about inflation, the first move in a serious, long-run strategy would be to take measures to create an independent economy, or an economy as independent as one can have in a modern world. The hon. member for Waterloo (Mr. Saltsman) and my other colleague from Regina East (Mr. Burton) recently issued a statement on the subject of inflation and dealt with this problem at some length. I am not going to repeat their cogent arguments, but I urge any member of the House and anyone who is interested to check with that source to see how we may begin in a serious way to get a more independent economy. If we are to concern ourselves with inflation, then this is an essential first step.

There are, of course, other matters to be dealt with. One is not arguing that there should be no concern with inflation, or that one should not be concerned with people who are confronted with its results. Those on fixed incomes need to be protected by a law that provides for permanent escalator clauses in private and public pensions. We require better trade union legislation in the provinces that will provide for increases in trade union memberships so that workers are in a better position to get higher wages through the process of collective bargaining, thus enabling them to deal with an essentially rigged market structure. There are other measures

[Mr. Broadbent.]

too that could be taken to protect those people who are now most seriously affected by inflation.

However, the point that I wish to emphasize is that inflation is not our major problem. It is not or should not be our major social concern: this should be maintaining full employment. It is time that this government woke up to this fact and began to deal with the real question that affects the vast majority of the people of this country, namely the lack of jobs. In view of the two-year time period, and because of the minister's prime responsibility in this area, I say in all seriousness that the government should demand now the resignation of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson). It is absurd for this country to continue with that man heading the finance department, given the results that the department has produced for this country.

I want now to leave that area and say something about our manpower retraining programs. Before I do so, I should like to point out that a sensible economic policy for this country is one that constitutes a coherent whole. We must not only have the government committed to a plan of full employment as a matter of general economic policy; we must also have a government that seeks to establish manpower retraining programs that mesh carefully with that policy. Instead, of course, we have a government that is not concerned with full employment at all, and which produces a hodge-podge of manpower retraining programs.

The present minister of manpower has indicated that the manpower retraining programs are, to quote him, "dedicated to helping Canadians get better jobs". The minister has said that retraining programs "are designed to fill the gap between capacity and skill". I take that quotation from a press release dated December 5, 1969.

In introducing the Adult Occupational Training Act on March 3, 1967 the present Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Marchand) said the following, as reported at page 13738 of *Hansard*:

We want to provide a second chance to the people who need it most. These are the men and women who missed the chance to acquire a skill during their youth—

● (12:20 p.m.)

In terms of the stated objectives on the part of two present ministers, the manpower program has been a disastrous failure, a failure largely I would suggest still unnoticed by the majority of Canadians. Why do I say this?