

The Address—Mr. M. Roy

ment for its failure to take action about the problems of unemployment and I wonder whether he is not really furthering his own ambitions at the expense of the unemployed.

Let us just ponder on the various pieces of legislation now in force dealing with tax reform, releasing a million taxpayers from personal income tax and reducing that tax in the case of 4.5 million Canadians. I wonder where is the sense of responsibility of opposition members who challenge the government about the unemployment situation with no heed for all the efforts and achievements in the field of job creation, in spite of the yearly increase of some 3 per cent in the labour force. Statistics confirm the results of the Liberal government's policies in this field.

Between 1965 and 1970, which is the latest period for which we have international figures, 1,440,000 Canadians joined the labour force, thus increasing it by more than 20 per cent.

The real growth of the labour force in Canada during that period exceeds by 100,000 units that of all the 15 major industrialized European countries which make up the European economic community and the European free trade zone although the total population of those countries is larger than that of Canada.

The relative growth of the labour force in Canada during those six years was almost 20 times that of all 15 major industrialized European countries, twice that of Japan and 58 per cent higher than that of the United States which ranks second in the world for the growth rate of its labour force.

What was the increase in the number of jobs? There were 1,300,000 new jobs created in Canada between 1965 and 1970. The increase in the number of jobs in Canada was 400,000, 50 per cent more than the real increase in the number of jobs in all the 15 major industrialized European countries and 505,000, or 66 per cent more than the total increase in the number of jobs in the seven major European countries, i.e. Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Sweden and the Netherlands.

The relative rate of increase in the number of jobs in Canada was 50 per cent higher than in the United States, twice higher than in Japan, 7½ times higher than in Germany and 27 times higher than in all those 15 European countries.

During the years 1970 and 1971 the relative rate of increase in the number of jobs in Canada was three times higher than the corresponding rate in the United States.

Those figures are evidence of the extent to which the Liberal government concentrated on the problem of unemployment through various programs implemented, by the creation of the Department of Regional Economic Expansion to create employment in areas where industries were not functioning normally, by the Department of Manpower and Immigration, and also by the economic incentives offered by the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

When I hear the members of the opposition blame the government for its employment policy, I conclude that they are simply jealous of its performance, that they have forgotten their own when they were in power from 1958 to

[Mr. Roy (Laval).]

1962 when, with a much smaller population, unemployment reached 7.15 per cent in 1961.

• (1630)

Mr. Speaker, I have before me a comparative statement showing the non-seasonally-adjusted labour figures for 1958 in Canada when there were 6,137,000 workers and 431,000 unemployed representing an unemployment rate of 7.02 per cent. My opponents will no doubt recall which government was in power then.

The 1960 figures indicate 6,411,000 workers and 446,000 unemployed or 6.95 per cent of the force, and this still under a Progressive Conservative government. The 1961 figures show 6,521,000 workers and 466,000 unemployed, a rate equal to 7.15 per cent.

Mr. Speaker, comparing present unemployment figures with those illustrating the past performance of our Progressive Conservative opponents, evidently we have 2 million more workers, but only 100,000 more unemployed, which means 2 million more jobs available, and an unemployment rate of 6.32 per cent, still lower than the rate of 7.15 per cent recorded under the Progressive Conservative government.

Nonetheless, of Mr. Speaker, they are those who tell us that we have lost the confidence of the Canadian people. And if they should forget their own past performance under their own Progressive Conservative government, I must remind them that the Canadian people have not.

In 1962 the Liberal party won 100 seats with 37.4 of the votes, and the Progressive Conservative party 116 seats. In the 1963, election, the Liberal party obtained 129 seats with 47 per cent of the votes, whereas the Progressive Conservative party got 95 seats with 33 per cent of the votes. In 1965, the Liberal party elected 131 members with 40 per cent of all the votes, whereas the Progressive Conservative party got 99 seats with 32 per cent of the votes. In 1968, the Liberals held 155 seats representing 45 per cent of the votes, while the Progressive Conservatives had 72 with 31 per cent of the votes. Finally in 1972, we still have 109 seats which have been gained with 38 per cent of the votes, while the Progressive Conservatives have 107 which they have obtained with 35 per cent of the votes.

I feel that the election represents a numerical rejection, in terms of both elected members and percentage of votes. The Canadian people have rejected the Progressive Conservative Party because it had neither forward-looking policies nor innovating programs, whereas we advocated some which appealed to the creative mind of Canadians by establishing manpower programs under the present legislation, such as the Local Initiatives and the Opportunity for Youth Programs. And when I refer to the Local Initiatives Program, I suggest that my hon. colleagues read the excellent article published on page 29 in *The Gazette* of today and I quote:

[English]

Canada's Local Initiatives Program has provided Marcel Ducharme with a second career—he dreams up LIP projects and makes them work.

[Translation]

This article is most interesting because it is stated in it that an amount of \$112,000 has been allocated to this