

employed in Canada did not increase every year, unemployment would now have reached close to two million instead of 400,000. The relatively small increase in the number of people employed in Canada is to be expected in view of the increase in the total work force.

As the Economic Council of Canada has shown in table 3 of its September, 1970 report, instead of 300,000 or 350,000 new jobs, which would have kept Canada at the same rate of unemployment in 1970 as in 1969, and that was high enough, in 1970 only 77,000 new jobs were created in this country. There were about 77,000 new jobs created in 1970 in this country. So assuming the increase in the total work force is something like 300,000, there is already a shortfall of 225,000 jobs even for those who have been added to the work force, quite apart from the numbers who were unemployed before. The situation is serious and I hope no member of the government will try to hide behind the increase in the participation rate, as the economists call it, or the increase in the number of people actually at work, to fool themselves to the point of asserting that there is no unemployment crisis in this country.

• (3:00 p.m.)

In October of this year there were 419,000 unemployed, an increase of 21,000 as compared with the month of September. Unemployment showed an increase in practically all the regions of Canada with the exception of the Maritimes. The Quebec figures showed an increase as did those of Ontario, the Prairies and British Columbia. Some of these increases were very striking. Perhaps the most significant fact which emerges from these figures, and one which I believe members of all parties ought to look at with the utmost concern, is that 23 per cent of the unemployed in October, 1970, were young people between the ages of 14 and 19. If we add the number of people aged between 20 and 24, we find that 45 per cent of all unemployment in Canada come into this larger category, that is, it occurs among those under the age of 24. Young people leaving school, or leaving colleges and universities, are frustrated by their inability to find work, their inability to make a contribution to society and to fulfil their young, hopeful lives. Aside from terrorism, there could be nothing more destructive to the social order than to have hundreds of thousands of young people leaving schools and colleges confronted by the frustration and despair which unemployment produces.

The other significant fact which emerges from these figures relates to problems we have faced and dealt with in the last few weeks. Of the total of unemployed in Canada in October, 1970, 38 per cent were in the Province of Quebec. A province which has only about one quarter of the total work force has almost 40 per cent of the total unemployment. And these are average figures I am giving, something which always worries me; I suppose our statistics can never be perfect, but when we talk about the number of people who are unemployed in Quebec or the Maritimes or elsewhere, we are talking about the province as a whole. But when we consider eastern Montreal, for example, or the County of Gaspé, I have no doubt that unemployment in such places may

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well amount to 15 or 18 per cent. So, one finds a concentration of desperate people without work in certain areas of a province or in certain areas of the country. I will return to the significance of this in a few moments, although I am sure it is already clear to everybody. At any rate, the unemployment in connection with which we have the figures for October has risen sufficiently for it to be considered as an extremely serious situation.

But this is nothing compared with what every forecast for the coming winter tells us. The Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), in an attitude which he so often and so unhappily displays, made fun of, or made an insulting reference to, the President of the Canadian Labour Congress who said there would be 9 per cent unemployment this winter and that the figure might climb as high as 11 per cent; the figure he forecast was 750,000. When a question was asked based on the statement by Mr. MacDonald, members of the House will recall that the Prime Minister made an insulting statement about his not being a reliable source from the point of view of veracity, or some such phrase. Well, the Prime Minister can make that kind of flippant remark as often as he likes; I suspect that the more often he does it the more the people of Canada will recognize it, and him, for what they are. The fact is, that what Mr. MacDonald said has been said by every reputable economist in this country—they are not labour people, either. Mr. Robert Crozier, an economist with the Economic Council of Canada, said as reported in an article in the *Toronto Star*, from which I quote, that by next February or March, unemployment will be up to 9 per cent, or maybe a little above. In numbers, he put the figure between 750,000 and 800,000. Mr. Forrest Rogers, economic adviser to the Bank of Nova Scotia—not a revolutionary institution, Mr. Speaker—said he thought there would be 8.5 per cent unemployed; 9 per cent, he thought, might be a little high, though he was not prepared to argue that the rate might not reach 9 per cent. Professor Sydney Ingerman, labour economist at McGill University said the actual rate of unemployment nationally would be in the area of 9 to 10 per cent. So, what the President of the Canadian Labour Congress said was supported by these and many other Canadian economists. Indeed, if I remember correctly, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson) himself admitted there would be very heavy unemployment this winter. I cannot recall whether or not he gave a figure, but he said he expected very heavy unemployment.

If there are to be between 750,000 and 800,000 unemployed, this unemployment will, as usual, be concentrated in the depressed areas of the country. So even larger numbers will be in the Province of Quebec; even larger numbers in the Atlantic provinces, and even larger numbers in the depressed areas of the Prairies and of Ontario. So if we are talking about 9 per cent as a national rate of unemployment, it will be 12 to 15 per cent in the Province of Quebec, probably 15 to 18 per cent in the Atlantic provinces, and 20 per cent or more in the area where unemployment is concentrated in the Gaspé and the eastern region of Montreal.

This, Mr. Speaker, is the direct result of government policies which have been pursued for the last while in an