

Supply—Finance

200,000 more people at work than last year. We had in 1957 a total number of persons with jobs of 5,843,000; the number today is 6,154,000, 320,000 more. Those figures, however, do not assist the man who is unemployed and that is the problem that is before us.

When I listen to hon. members opposite talking about how different things were when they were in power it surprises me that when I want to put the facts on the record suddenly the rules become so important. May I simply point out that in Canada, as in the United States, with an expanding industrial economy we find ourselves in the paradoxical position of having a measure of unemployment. When hon. gentleman opposite try to lead the Canadian people to believe that we are in a position different from other nations, may I point out that in the months of June and July the D.B.S. figure for Canada was 4.6 per cent, and the equivalent figure for unemployment in the United States was 5.5 per cent.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): That is not a correct statement.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I prefer statistics which come from the records, not from the mind of the hon. member for Essex East who produces the kind of statistics which he believes at the moment suit his purposes. I have accepted his basis which he laid the other day. Indeed I did not rise to challenge it because I knew that the statement that he made on Saturday when he challenged the figures which I gave would be an answer to him soon or later, and as it has turned out, much sooner than I had expected.

May I simply say this in conclusion. If as a result of the examination of the recommendations of this committee, which incidentally the opposition wished to have set up, we consider that it is necessary they should be carried into effect before the next session of parliament, we shall do so, for the hon. member for Essex East has quite frankly admitted that we have the constitutional right to follow that course, and that constitutional right we shall follow if we so require.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Chairman, I propose to deal only with what the Prime Minister has said, and I expect to be allowed to do that even though the Prime Minister strayed away from the subject which is before us. The Prime Minister ended up by saying that the government had the constitutional right to do whatever they felt like doing with regard to this report. We do not challenge that, Mr. Chairman. What we challenge is the parliamentary propriety of taking that action at this time.

The Prime Minister had a great deal of amusement out of manipulating the words which the hon. member for Essex East used last Saturday. I took down what the Prime Minister said and I will use those words just as he spoke them with only one change to show how futile his argument was.

The Prime Minister was tied up by his own statistics and condemned out of his own lips. By his very words he proved last Saturday that the N.E.S. figures were the right ones. He used the N.E.S. figures deliberately when the D.B.S. figures did not meet the needs of the right hon. gentleman. All I did there was to change "D.B.S." to "N.E.S.", because they were the figures the Prime Minister himself used. That perhaps indicates how futile his argument was.

So far as the facts with regard to unemployment at the particular month in question are concerned, the Prime Minister said that in June, 1957 the unemployment situation was serious, and the figure of registration for employment which he gave was 267,000. What, then, would he say about current conditions when in June, 1960 there were more than 400,000 registered at N.E.S. offices? That is 50 per cent more than in June 1957.

While we are very interested in this subject, and we would be very glad to have a debate on unemployment, what we are talking about here is the parliamentary propriety of the government at this time of the session keeping from parliament a report which is in their possession. This is a report—and I would like the Prime Minister to deal with this matter—about which the Minister of Labour said on March 3, as reported on page 1702 of *Hansard*:

Whenever a report is forthcoming on this matter it will be made available to the house.

Does the Prime Minister repudiate that statement of the Minister of Labour, that whenever a report on this matter is forthcoming—not whenever a report has been approved by the cabinet—it will be made available to the house? That is what we are asking for. May I ask the Prime Minister whether he proposes to table this report at the beginning of the next session, if he will not table it now, and give us the information contained in it?

Mr. Diefenbaker: That is a very proper suggestion, and it will receive the most sympathetic consideration. That is a very proper question and one which I immediately answer in the manner in which I have.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): May I ask a supplementary question? If the Prime Minister will table that report, as he has now agreed to do, I take it that in view of the co-operative nature of my hon. friend's