

saying to the Canadians: "Let me have your comments since I want this tax reform to meet as much as possible the needs of all Canadians". This is the first time this happens. In my opinion, a monument should be erected to the Minister of Finance who understood the nature of active democracy.

As far as the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation is concerned, they did not want to leave it short of cash, although there is a shortage of funds in Canada and in every country in the world.

The government gave a push to external trade by delegating ministers to South America a few months ago in an attempt to enter into new trade relations. The Prime Minister is now doing the same thing during his journey abroad.

He is streamlining the unemployment insurance machinery. I was rather amused this morning when I heard the hon. member for Sainte-Marie advise the government to bring unemployment insurance in line with the facts. He deserves to be praised, for the papers announced this morning that this is now a fait accompli.

The hon. member for Sainte-Marie also blamed the government for not showing enough concern for the development of national parks. The Quebec government, of whom the hon. member for Sainte-Marie is a supporter and with whom has been buddy-buddy for quite a few years, has always objected to the development of national parks in the province of Quebec. The federal government has offered to the province of Quebec these past months to establish such parks on her territory, but he was turned down. Quebec says it wants that territory to remain untainted by outside influences, which is of course quite illusory.

There are the equalization payments, Mr. Speaker, and I insist on the case of the province of Quebec since the member for Sainte-Marie (Mr. Valade) brought it up this morning. They amounted to \$360 million last year for Quebec, and for the current year they will bring \$430 million precisely to help that province to fight against the regional disparities from which it suffers.

What about the balanced budget the Minister of Finance announced to the Canadian people, which helps to inspire confidence in the government and Canadian finances, which contributes to attracting serious investments from countries which have a bit more capital than we have.

Economic Policies and Unemployment

You have there measures adopted by the government to fight against inflation.

Mr. Speaker, my remarks may sound disconnected, but I am trying to follow the trend of thought of the mover of the non-confidence motion, the member for Sainte-Marie. Did he not say, this morning, that unemployment had reached an unheard of level in Canada? Let us look at the statistics.

I wonder by what right our friends of Her Majesty's loyal opposition, the Conservative party, lecture this government, they who from 1930 to 1933 caused the great depression; who from 1958 to 1962 had the highest rate of unemployment over, although we were not yet in the thick of inflation. In Canada, the unemployment rate was 6 per cent in 1959. In the Atlantic provinces it was 10.9 per cent and in Quebec 7.8 per cent. That was a year after the Progressive Conservative party came to power. In 1960, in Canada, it was 7 per cent; in the Atlantic provinces, 10.7 per cent and in Quebec, 9.1 per cent. In 1961, the unemployment rate in Canada was 7.1 per cent, in the Atlantic provinces, 11.2 per cent and in Quebec 9.2 per cent. In 1962, it was 5.9 per cent in Canada, 10.7 per cent in the Atlantic provinces and 7.5 per cent in Quebec. Then, the Liberal party came to power. I will quote now the statistics beginning of course with the year 1963.

For 1963: 5.5 per cent in Canada, 9.5 per cent in the Atlantic provinces, 7.5 per cent in Quebec. There is already a decrease.

For 1964: the federal government statistics show a rate of 4.7 per cent in Canada, 7.8 per cent in the Atlantic provinces and 6.4 per cent in Quebec.

For 1965: a further decrease: 3.9 per cent in Canada, 7.4 per cent in the Atlantic provinces and 5.4 per cent in Quebec.

For 1966: 3.6 per cent in Canada, 6.4 per cent in the Atlantic provinces and 4.7 per cent in Quebec.

For 1967: 4.1 per cent in Canada, 6.6 per cent in the Atlantic provinces and 5.3 per cent in Quebec. And that keeps on until 1969.

For 1969: 4.7 per cent in Canada, 7.5 per cent in the Atlantic provinces and 6.9 per cent in Quebec.

For 1970: the percentage can only be established at the end of the year.

Mr. Speaker, I realize that since 1962, namely since the coming into power of the Liberal government the unemployment rate in Canada has decreased more regularly than