

western industrialized world. The inevitable result of that policy of restraint which was urged upon the government by the governor of the Bank of Canada, the chairman of the Prices and Incomes Commission and other important government officials, was that we had the greatest rate of unemployment of any industrialized country in the western world. I have said before and continue to say this is exactly opposite to the just society about which the Prime Minister has spoken because those who are least able to carry the burden, namely, the unemployed pay for the mismanagement of the economy and for the inflation we have.

**Mr. P. M. Mahoney (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member's original question, as reported at page 4373 of *Hansard* for March 18, 1971, stripped of its preamble, was:

—can we take it that it is government policy to accept an unemployment rate of 5.5 per cent to 6 per cent for the future?

A few minutes earlier, as reported at page 4371 of *Hansard*, the then leader of the NDP, the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands (Mr. Douglas), after a preamble with respect to unemployment asked:

—if we can now assume that the government is prepared to settle down to a seasonally adjusted rate of 5½ per cent to 6 per cent per year?

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It must have come as quite a shock to the hon. member to have had Your Honour disallow his question on the basis that it had been asked a few moments before. The hon. member is to be congratulated on his scrupulous loyalty to his leader, if not on his creativity. I am sure that his qualities are particularly valued by his party and leader early in the new reign.

The answer to the question is, of course, an unequivocal no. The government is not prepared to accept an unemployment rate of 5½ per cent to 6 per cent seasonally adjusted or otherwise, for the future. Government policies are designed for and are working effectively toward a much more acceptable level than that experienced during the past winter. Positive results are being achieved both nationally and regionally. I would refer the hon. member to the testimony given today in the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs by the chairman of the Economic Council of Canada with respect to the excellent performance of Canada's economy relative to that of other free market economies, including that of the United States, and I would in particular refer him to employment trends.

Motion agreed to and the House adjourned at 10.28 p.m.