

Interim Supply

"outside this house". They will not even bother taking part in the proceedings of the house and state their views to the house, but they go outside the house and express views that are not in accordance with the facts. The most recent example we had of that, of course, was that incredible performance the other evening—and I hope most of the Canadian people with television sets saw it—by the Minister of Trade and Commerce. It was something that I think we on this side of the chamber would be happy to pay the cost of having repeated for the benefit of the Canadian people because it would give them tangible evidence of the way in which the present administration approaches the problems of this country and the kind of consideration the present government brings to those problems.

There is one thing in particular I wish to mention and I asked a question about it yesterday. I asked the minister whether he was aware of the statement his department was going to put out yesterday morning when he made the statement he did the evening before. I have a transcript of the words he used on "Press Conference" and this is what he told the Canadian people—

Mr. Pallett: The statement was completely accurate.

Mr. Pickersgill: What the minister said was completely accurate? Well, we will look at it and see how accurate it was. That is precisely what I was going to do. These are the words the minister used:

Canada is plagued with seasonal unemployment which does not affect certain other countries in the world, but nevertheless we are making great progress and the figures for unemployment this year are lower than they were a year ago.

The minister the next morning had to issue a statement showing that the figure was higher by 37,000. That is the extent to which we can rely on statements made by hon. gentlemen opposite. That is the way they talk to the people who have not the ready access to information we have in this chamber. I am not saying the minister did it deliberately. He said he did not take the trouble to find out.

Mr. Churchill: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I said no such thing and the hon. member is now distorting the facts. I said that that issue of the dominion bureau of statistics publication was not placed in my hands until yesterday morning. I did not see it before then.

Mr. Pickersgill: I do not want to be in any way fair to the hon. gentleman, or rather I do not wish to be unfair to him.

Mr. Ricard: You had it right the first time.
[Mr. Pickersgill.]

Mr. Bell (Saint John-Albert): Leave that on the record. Do not change *Hansard*.

Mr. Pickersgill: I will not take it off the record. The hon. gentleman who represents the constituency of Saint John-Albert and who rarely utters a word in this chamber except when I am speaking may be assured that I have never been ashamed to admit my slips of tongue or any other mistakes I have made, and I have made a good many.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Pickersgill: But also, on occasion I have been right, and the other evening when the Minister of Trade and Commerce referred to figures on the television broadcast he was not right once. Every figure he gave was wrong. I do not have time to go into that now.

Mr. Pallett: That statement is completely wrong.

Mr. Benidickson: We are paying one sixth of his salary here, so just let us carry on.

Mr. Pallett: The hon. member is distorting the facts.

Mr. Pickersgill: I will read it again for the benefit of the hon. member for Peel, who finds it difficult to understand anything the first time it is read. These are the words of the Minister of Trade and Commerce:

Canada is plagued with seasonal unemployment which does not affect certain other countries in the world, but nevertheless we are making great progress—

We are making great progress, all right; a higher figure every month and a higher figure this year than last year.

Mr. Pallett: More people employed.

Mr. Pickersgill: I continue:

—and the figures for unemployment this year are lower than they were a year ago—

The minister said they were lower but in fact the figures are higher. And now we come to the punch line. I did not read this the first time. The minister went on to say:

—and, after all, a year ago we were just emerging from a recession.

A year ago when we were emerging from a recession we had 37,000 fewer people out of work, according to the minister's own department, than now when we are in the midst of a boom. What a boom. As a matter of fact, this is just on a par with that performance the Prime Minister put on. No doubt the Minister of Finance will regard this as another of those personal attacks, but I am going to stick strictly to what the Prime Minister said in that speech on March 3, 1960.

Mr. Bigg: Another dead horse.