

disappear. There is far too much poverty in the just society, too much inequality among Canadian people and among the regions of Canada.

I happen to come from a region which knows the pangs and inequity of regional disparity. The province of Prince Edward Island, so richly blessed in many ways, is today in the unenviable position of having the highest unemployment rate of all the provinces. We have even surpassed Newfoundland. The figure for March was 16.2 per cent, and combined with this, figures on the cost of living which I have just received today, show that the index in the City of Charlottetown, taking January, 1969 as a base of 100, stands, in April of 1972, at 114.5. Compare that with the figure for another area, St. John the home of my whip, known for its high cost of living—109.8—and 106.7 for the other Atlantic centre, the city of Halifax. So we have the effects of both inflation and unemployment, uniquely painful to the people who must endure them simultaneously. In these circumstances I find it very difficult to tell the people of Prince Edward Island or the people of the Atlantic region they have never had it so good. Ask the young people of Canada how things are going today? Ask the graduates who are coming out of our fine universities by thousands and thousands. Ask them if the economy is going well. I talked to a young student the other day. I said: "Have you applied to the Canada Manpower office for a job?" He said: "Are you kidding? I have been there 45 times."

Much was made by some speakers this afternoon of various programs, including Opportunities for Youth, and the LIP program. They offer something, of course, and with our statistics so high in the realm of unemployment, of course we welcome them. But what happens when the six or seven weeks are over? What happens when the \$38,000 or \$58,000 or \$78,000 is spent and the 12, 13 or 15 jobs peter out at the end of the project? These are mere palliatives. They are not nearly enough for the hundreds of thousands of Canadian people, especially the young who are crying out for opportunities. We all know very well that the projects which are accepted are far outnumbered by other projects, probably of real value and virtue, which are rejected.

• (1640)

We have had discussions in this House during this debate on the general question of regional disparity. A hard and dispassionate look at the statistics—though it is difficult for me to be dispassionate—indicates that the gap is not narrowing. By many important economic indices it is broadening; getting worse. Yet we have a situation where practically the whole country is a designated area. I suppose this is part of the reason that when practically the whole of the generality becomes the special, there is nothing very special left, because almost everything becomes a designated area.

I was much interested in the intervention of my hon. and learned friend the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp) who was euphoric almost to the point of excitement over this budget. He thought it was one of the greatest that had ever come along. On May 15, as reported at page 2259 of *Hansard*, he said:

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According to those who are in a position to judge, Canada has a record second to none throughout the world in recent years in terms of the expansion of the economy and the control of inflation.

So, mention was made of controlling inflation. Another modest outburst came a few paragraphs later when he said:

In the last three or four years, we have achieved a record that is second to none in the history of this country.

He then designated the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Pepin) as having worked well abroad on behalf of Canadian industry, though earlier he had said that if Oscars were given out for economic performance Canada would have been one of the recipients. He might not have been so timid and suggested that we should have had them all. In other words, whatever proposals were made by the minister would not be designated, as were Swift's, as modest proposals.

I thought it interesting that the Secretary of State for External Affairs should intervene so strongly on behalf of his colleague the Minister of Finance. Then, I reflected upon it a bit and came to the conclusion that it was not so strange really because it is in fact in the external world that some of our great problems have arisen. Things are happening there that are injuring our domestic economy. One of the areas where I have quarreled consistently and differed continuously with the present government is with regard to their white paper projection of a foreign policy for Canadians. Hon. members will recall the following paragraph on "Foreign policy in essence":

In undertaking this review the Government has been constantly reminded of its need and responsibility to choose carefully aims, objectives and priorities in sufficiently long and broad terms to ensure that essential Canadian interests and values are safeguarded in the world situation where rapid and even radical changes can be anticipated as normal rather than exceptional conditions. Canada, like other states, must act accordingly to how it perceives its aims and interest. External activities should be directly related to national policies pursued within Canada, and serve the same objectives. Diplomatic relations are maintained and strengthened for a wide variety of reasons—among others, trade expansion, collective security, cultural contact, co-operation in development assistance, exchanges in science and technology.

Such relationships have to be kept under review to ensure that they continue to serve Canada's objectives effectively. Those may change as both Canada and the world change. In essence, foreign policy is the product of the Government's progressive definition and pursuit of national aims and interests in the international environment. It is the extension abroad of national policies.

I think it is not. I think foreign policy is much more than that. As a decent, responsible and well-endowed member of the international community, we should think of foreign policy as much more than an extension of our domestic situation.

Also raised in this debate is the opposite issue, the effect of external movements and non-movements on the domestic situation. External developments and decisions have affected, and affected unhelpfully, our domestic economy. I believe that this is one of the serious weaknesses affecting our economy today. When we do have a foreign policy debate I should like to discuss the "neo-Mackenzie Kingism" which pervades our foreign policy, but I am more concerned today at the statement made by the deputy minister of trade in Czechoslovakia that Canada could be