

money get there? It got there because the people who were employed paid their unemployment insurance premiums as did their employers. That is how the money got into the fund. Why is it gone? It is gone because people have been unemployed. Oh, maybe the minister lost a bit, or at least maybe others lost a bit for the minister—the Minister of Finance, mainly—by bad management of the fund. I will leave that question to the hon. member for Welland who understands these things better than I do. However, most of it is gone because people have been unemployed and it has been paid out to the unemployed. That is why this money is all gone—unless the minister or rather the commission has been paying out millions to people who were not unemployed; and I do not believe that for a moment.

Mr. Cardiff: We did not have two wars to boost our economy when we were in power.

Mr. Pickersgill: May I say this; if the hon. gentleman wishes to start a war in order to boost the economy, he will not find many other Canadians who are with him.

Mr. Cardiff: That is what boosted the economy.

Mr. Pickersgill: It is extraordinary, is it not, Mr. Chairman, how the Tories always have an excuse for their failures while the Liberals are not obliged to make excuses because, when there is a Liberal government, there are not the failures. That seems to be the difference, as the hon. gentleman has aptly illustrated through his helpful intervention. I hope he will make some more interventions as he is extremely helpful in them.

Mr. Walker: We are straightening out your mess.

Mr. Pickersgill: Oh, yes; that is another favourite theme of the Minister of Public Works.

Mr. Walker: That is right.

Mr. Pickersgill: I will tell the hon. gentleman about the mess.

Mr. Walker: All right.

Mr. Pickersgill: There was \$928 million in the unemployment insurance fund and—

Mr. Walker: Louder.

Mr. Pickersgill:—there was about 140,000 unemployed when this government took office. The figure has never got down to that level since these gentlemen took their seats on the treasury benches. There was a surplus in the treasury. That was the mess.

Let us look at the situation now, Mr. Chairman. The situation that we find is this. One billion dollars have been dissipated from

the unemployment insurance fund. Two billion dollars have been added to the national debt. We have the worst unemployment situation since the 30's. After five years in office the ministers are talking as though they could not do anything, as though they were helpless, as though they had no influence on events and as though, after five years in office, Mr. Howe, Mr. Harris and Mr. St. Laurent are still to blame for the fact that when these gentlemen took office the budget was balanced, the national debt was being paid off and there was virtually no unemployment and the fund was overflowing. That was the mess. If the Minister of Public Works has such a distorted vision—and I use the term advisedly—that this is what he regards as a mess, I would suggest that a great many of the people of Canada would be extremely glad to have that mess again compared with what we have now. However, that is not all.

Mr. Walker: Tell us about the hidden report.

Mr. Pickersgill: Oh, I will tell you about the hidden report. I suggest to the minister that he read the *Winnipeg Free Press* for this week with regard to the hidden report and he will not want ever to hear it mentioned again. I suggest to the hon. gentleman that he just walk out of the chamber, go to the library and read it right now.

Mr. Walker: I wish to hear the hon. member.

Mr. Pickersgill: The hon. gentleman will hear me in good time. However, I am speaking about the unemployment insurance fund at the moment and I intend to continue doing so regardless of the assistance I get from the Minister of Public Works.

It would be bad enough, Mr. Chairman, if they had just bankrupted the fund. However, what do this incredible government do? They published a little booklet called, "Still More Action for Canada and Canadians". This is the latest edition of Tory propaganda. I just hope the people of Canada all read it and understand what it is really saying. I am going to read just one paragraph and here it is:

The infamous Liberal "threshold clause" was removed from existing unemployment assistance legislation thereby extending benefits to all Canadians instead of those from only six provinces, as under the Liberals.

Whatever that incomprehensible sentence means I should not like to say, as I do not think anybody could make any sense out of it. Evidently some words were left out. However, the really important part is what follows:

Federal contributions have been increased by more than 847.7 per cent—from \$7.9 million in the last year under the Liberals to \$75 million in 1961-62.