

ment. One was, what is the acceptable unemployment level in the eyes of the government? What is the cutoff figure that might be used as a gauge by the government itself to know that the limit has been reached and that it had better take action instead of monkeying with the lives of many Canadian citizens. I am sure we do not want smart alec answers like those received from the Prime Minister who, when questioned on the subject, replied, when did you stop beating your wife? We want to know how far down the road to recession the government is leading the country by using these peculiar methods to control the situation.

The unemployment situation in Canada has reached frightening proportions and to my mind it has done so as a result of misguided and muddled thinking of the first order. We know that the government can live with 6 per cent unemployment but those who think that a man can live on \$30 a week should get out on the streets and talk to the men and women who are feeling the whiplash of these academic exercises that went out the window years ago. I suggest the government get out and speak with the people because it is obviously not getting the message. However, the message is being carried now in the Toronto *Globe and Mail*. A series of articles in that paper carried these headlines: "Rising unemployment appears to be an unhappy by-product of the fight against inflation. Here is how it has affected three of the 526,000 Canadians without work." I am referring, of course, to the latest in this series which appeared in the *Globe and Mail* this week.

In the lead story, we read that the roles of father and mother will be reversed shortly in the family of Gordon and Patricia Rehel, unless Mr. Rehel, an unemployed factory worker, somehow finds a job. The story reads:

Since December they have been living with their three children on unemployment insurance of \$48 a week in their 1½ story home on Natal Avenue, Scarborough.

It is said that Mrs. Rehel will go out to get work while her husband stays home looking after the children. Let me continue to quote from this story:

Gordon blames the federal government's methods of fighting inflation for the fact he can't get a job. People are being told not to buy, so less goods are produced, so jobs disappear.

Whatever else Pierre Trudeau may be, he is no friend of the working man, he said.

We find it impossible to understand how they think they can better the country by putting people out of work, said Patricia (his wife).

Alleged Failure of Employment Policies

In the second story we read that Fred Levely is already the homemaker while his wife goes out to work as a carhop at \$1.35 an hour. Says Mr. Levely:

I don't mind cooking. But sometimes there isn't much to cook—spaghetti, hamburger, things like that. We can't afford chickens or roasts and eat spaghetti two or three times a week.

These extracts were from the *Globe and Mail*. If we look at the Toronto *Star*, we find this story:

What is acceptable to Prime Minister Trudeau is not acceptable to us. We will not hold still for an unemployment figure of 6 per cent.

Not even in the sacred cause of fighting inflation should it be tolerated. Canada must find better ways to straighten out the economy than to let unemployment grow into a monster.

A figure of 6 per cent, translated into people, means that 480,000 men and women cannot find jobs. If one allots them only one dependant each, that still means that almost 1,000,000 Canadians have been plunged into hard times.

The maximum benefit a man with children can draw from the Unemployment Insurance Commission is \$53 a week for 52 weeks. That works out to \$2,756 for the year before a man has to go onto welfare.

This is well below the poverty line for a family in Canada.

• (2:10 p.m.)

The monster of unemployment is with us. There are many, many people living below the poverty line in Canada today. Does this government really care?

In recent months there have been massive lay-offs in private industry. I referred earlier to some of these. We have had delegations of unemployed workers here from Dunlop Tire Company and, as we all know, there have been demonstrations outside this building because of blatant government attempts to smash unions which over the years have fought for the rights of workers. I am referring to the Lapalme workers and the CNTU. If hon. members have any doubts about this, I suggest they look at the Montreal postal situation. In a year when the government can unveil Information Canada to improve information services, it throws the basic communication service of Montreal into complete utter chaos. Anyone in Montreal can tell you about the problem with the mail service. Yet the government is having to pay more money to bail itself out of the mess than it would have had to pay in its Scrooge-like approach to the mail truck drivers and their union.

I wish to deal now with the manpower policies. Just how effective are these policies?