

forerunner of the automotive pact? What about the Atlantic provinces adjustment grant? Ask the people in the maritimes who introduced that adjustment program and what it did for the Atlantic region? Therefore, I say it is not right for the minister to rise in his place and say that the Liberal party was entirely responsible for reducing the percentage of unemployment. I bring this to the attention of members of this house so that there will be no misgivings about this point.

The Minister of Labour spoke about the introduction and setting up of the department of industry and what a great thing it was. It only lasted for about five years and they dismantled it. They blasted it apart. Although they started off with a nominal staff they ended up with over 1,000 employees. Talk about employment! That was one of the greatest ways to employ people—build up an empire in the department of industry.

When I listened to the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield), and others speak about this motion I was struck by that empty and barren thing, the just society, of which we have heard so much. Here it is, the first month of a new year and we face the prospect of seeing more than half a million Canadians out of work and with little prospect of things improving except seasonally. One of the most unpleasant aspects of a very unpleasant subject is that the unemployment figures serve to emphasize the regional disparity under which we suffer in this country. The correction of this regional disparity, we were led to believe, was to have been one of the chief concerns of this government. Nothing has been done.

It is almost six months since this parliament met. We have had dialogues ad nauseam, task forces too many to count, promises galore and even international fashion shows,

*Alleged Failure to Reduce Unemployment*  
but no government action. I do not believe the figures on regional unemployment have been entirely placed on the record although I believe the figures for the Atlantic region were given. The figures of regional unemployment are as follows: 7.1 per cent in the Atlantic provinces; 6.8 per cent in the province of Quebec; 3 per cent in Ontario; 3.4 per cent in the prairies and 5.4 per cent in British Columbia. These certainly bear out the lopsided nature of our national economy.

No one likes unemployment. We all realize the seriousness of unemployment. Today, with this fire of inflation which is spreading and engulfing everybody, this government in spite of the war on poverty keeps throwing log after log on the fire of inflation. Unemployment becomes more and more important. The cost of living has gone out of the reach of millions of Canadians. When one is out of work the cost of living becomes even more and more important. The saddest thing that could happen to any family is to see the breadwinner unemployed.

This government must face up to the problem. It must look ahead and plan. Members of the government can fool nobody by postponing their actions. We had some programs that were of great benefit to the country. There was the winter works program. Where has it gone? There is nothing to substitute for it. The municipal loan fund was a great help to the municipalities. Where has that gone? Where have the subsidies in respect of winter housebuilding gone? Then there was the public works program. That has been discontinued. Has there been a replacement? No.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. It being six o'clock the house stands adjourned until Thursday at 2 p.m.

At six o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.

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