

Unemployment

in order that their children could have more at that time, under Liberal and Conservative governments and under your system of free enterprise. What happened? Tear gas by police battalions; concentration camps for single men at 15 cents per day, until the war came along.

This pertains to our present situation. It has been said by the Prime Minister, and I was surprised to hear him say it, that he does not think the situation is sufficiently serious that it cannot be handled by the provinces. We shall continue to point to that statement until something is done to fill the promise and commitment made by the federal government in 1945, when it promised to assume responsibility for the employable unemployed in Canada.

The provinces are not financially capable of taking care of their employable unemployed. I wish to say most emphatically that no province in the Dominion of Canada would dare to take care of the unemployed even on a humanitarian and Christian basis if they were not domiciled in that province, because immediately they did so that province would attract an influx of all the unemployed in the dominion. I care not what province it might be, very soon the province would be bankrupt if it ever outlined such a policy, much as the provinces might like to do on a humanitarian basis. From my many years of experience in the province of British Columbia I know that province received an influx of transient unemployed; they are there today. The province does not dare take care of them for the reason I have just outlined.

And what does this government do? The members sit back smug in the knowledge that they will continue to receive their \$10,000 and \$27,000 a year and let the unemployed go to blazes—

An hon. Member: That is not true.

Mr. Winch: It certainly is true. I defy the Minister of Labour, the Prime Minister or the Minister of National Health and Welfare, who interrupted so much this afternoon, to get up and outline any policy whereby this government will accept the responsibility for the permanent and transient employable unemployed. You know they won't. You have only to look back in *Hansard* and read the speech of your own Prime Minister, who said the problem is not so serious that the provinces cannot take care of it. That statement has been made I think not less than three times during the present session, and not less than twice since the commencement of this debate on unemployment.

Mr. Speaker, there is no use of our Liberal friends trying to bluff their way out of this situation. They are not facing up to the problem. They are hoping that something will happen, that these people will remain quiet, quiescent and acquiescent, and that in the summer jobs will open up or perhaps a war will occur.

I wonder how many of those in this house who support free enterprise have ever troubled to trace back in their own minds their experiences during their lifetime in this dominion, to observe the recurring cycles of depression and war and prosperity through war? On the basis of the present unemployment figures it is difficult to understand the reasoning of the government and its lack of action in relation to the unemployment problem. As I pointed out on a previous occasion, the Dominion of Canada from 1914 until the end of December of last year spent the sum of \$44,047,947,807 for war. Surely something is wrong with the Minister of Labour, the Prime Minister and every member who supports this government if they can sit here complacently, with full knowledge that when we require \$44 billion for war and defence we can readily find it, and not outline any policy in this house during the past four weeks for action to take care of, first, the immediate unemployment situation and second—and perhaps I should have put it first—the granting of a degree of security to the unemployed in this dominion who are definitely in need.

I wish to point out that if Canada were to go to war tomorrow this government would move and within 24 hours take care of all the financial requirements of war. They could take care of those more than 614,000 unemployed and do as they did in the last war, put 1,100,000 Canadian men and women into uniform and feed and clothe them and take care of them in every way. My hon. friends know they could. Why will the government not take action to correct the unemployment situation? Is it not an indictment of the Prime Minister, his cabinet and every Liberal on the floor of this house that we have proven that we can—and I say we will—have full employment in Canada if men and women want to die for Canada? However, the government will not budge now to take care of the 614,000 unemployed who want to live for Canada.

If we required small arms tomorrow in Canada this government would lay down policies so that we could have the small arms. Is it not logical to ask that they lay down some policy to take care of the 885,690 homes in Canada that have neither hot nor cold water piped in? If we required war planes tomorrow in the event of war, we would get them. The