

Employment Incentive Programs

occupations; moreover, a high percentage of workers are salaried people. A high turnover rate and the seasonal nature of employment are further characteristics of Canadian labour markets. And yet we believe that the most important and baffling aspect of this problem is the continuance of regional disparities in unemployment in Canada.

This is a contradiction and a condemnation of what was said today in connection with government policies or initiatives to create employment.

The statement on page 7 is significant:

Moreover, the possibility of ever increasing inflation will exist if people and their elected representatives have an exceedingly optimistic vision about the extent to which this critical unemployment phase has been reduced.

I therefore appeal to reason and realism.

Finally I would like to quote a last sentence condemning the culprit. I am quoting from page 12:

Since governments are responsible for the whole administration of our economy, it is obvious that if they allow any excessive inflation of demand, they must bear the responsibility, whatever might be the direct impact of public expenses as such.

Mr. Speaker, this is something that should give us food for thought.

I said I will not take very long. I wanted only to remind my hon. colleagues that they have all received today a copy of this publication, in both official languages, and that we should well understand that the so-called twin problem of unemployment and inflation still persists in spite of the \$578 million granted under the special government program aimed at creating employment and the actions and efforts he has made to this effect.

The government has trodden the wrong path and, today, we recognize that it is mistaken, that it has travelled the wrong track since it favoured an increased production while this has already reached the \$100 billion mark, according to information published today by a Montreal newspaper. The problem does not exist at the level of production, but at the level of the ability of Canadians to market it.

I have said and I repeat, Mr. Speaker, that the problem in Canada is not one of production or of creation of jobs, but one of consumption. Canadians should have enough purchasing power to buy the products available on the market.

The global purchasing power, the total income of Canadians amounts to \$67 billion and the gross national product \$100 billion. How is it possible to buy a production worth \$100 billion with \$67 billion? That is mathematically impossible, Mr. Speaker, and as long as the government will continue to increase those \$100 billion and refuse to spend as much effort to increase the consumption power, it will always find itself in the same situation as it is now.

During the weekend, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Marchand) said at the Cabano in front of 2,000 persons that he could not meet their request for the establishment of a pulp and paper plant. He told them that he was not sure, according to the studies which he had, that those products alone would sell on the market. Yet, that same government asked those very workers to invest in that industry, to set it up to replace Irving.

[Mr. Fortin.]

Mr. Speaker, today the government says: We cannot help you because we are not sure. Why is the government not sure? It is sure Canadian workers can work, that the goods, the equipment are there. The workers even invested \$700,000 of their savings in that new company. The government is not sure the goods will sell on the Canadian market.

If, Mr. Speaker, the problem does not lie in the hearts of the workers of Cabano, in the equipment, in the pulp and paper, but obviously, as the minister said, in the demand, then why not invest as much in the demand as has been invested in the production in the last three years?

Mr. Speaker, there are not two ways open. Again recently, the government announced the sale of bonds for a total of \$400 million, asking Canadians to invest in their country. Here is the saddest and, in a way, most extraordinary part: the government sells this \$400 million worth of bonds strictly in order to pay back the bonds which have now matured. This means that this government's whole financial policy consists in borrowing in order to pay its old debts, so that the debt of the country, that of the provinces and that of individuals grow heavier.

As a consequence, no matter how many millions the government throws right and left in order to have a clear conscience, it remains that poverty will go on increasing in Canada, that regional disparity will still be an awful reality, that those programs will be nothing but plasters applied to little sores, to what shows most, while obviously nothing will be done about the underlying disease which causes those superficial sores.

Mr. Speaker, we of the Social Credit party do not want to play politics by taking up any more of the time of the House with this matter. I ask my colleagues to give serious consideration to the fact that after four years in power, after establishing boards, one of which condemns it today, after encouraging production in order to curtail inflation and unemployment, the government has met with complete failure.

Several million dollars are paid out to Canadians in order to try and reduce unemployment and inflation. If Parliament is acting in good faith, let it then give to Canadians the opportunity of really sharing in the economic growth of their country so that they may afterwards share in its social development, by giving the Canadian people what is lacking to dispose of the production which we are so anxious to increase, that is the illogical and unacceptable gap between the total national income and the gross national product. If the government ever understands this, we will eliminate the regional disparities from coast to coast, because we will have given to every Canadian, regardless of his language, an equal chance to really participate in the economic growth of his country.

In conclusion, I point out that the motion moved by the Progressive Conservatives blames the government for its failure to stimulate production. This motion makes me laugh because the Conservatives today blame the Liberals for failing to do what they themselves have not done, and they cast a stone at one another.

I hope that in the near future solutions will really be produced in this House, instead of mere criticisms. The