

The Address—Hon. Paul Martin

the figure I gave a moment ago in connection with the economic growth of Canada under the former administration. The cold, hard truth is that our economic growth has become less than the growth of our population. Our production per person in real terms was about 4 per cent smaller in 1961 than it was in 1956. If our economic growth had continued at the 4.6 per cent average rate, in the past four and a half years we would have produced goods worth nearly \$14 billion more than our actual production.

That is the fact, and let the ministry applaud that statement. The fact is that we have had bad management of our affairs; we have had a disorganization of our public affairs; we have had an unwise, an unsteady leadership; we have had a lack of sound government policy, responsibility and wise planning; and largely because of that we are confronted again, in this fourth year of this government's term of office since 1958, with an unemployment figure larger than that of any country in the western world. Then, because we dare to examine this problem, we are criticized by the government as though we were hurting our country—

Mr. Starr: You are.

Mr. Pallett: Not only by the government. Read the newspapers.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): The hon. member says "Read the newspapers". I say, read the Gallup polls. Those polls show the displeasure which the Canadian people are experiencing at this time as a result of the lack of leadership, as a result of the mismanagement of our affairs, as a result of the reluctance of this government to resort to employment policies consistent with the extravagant assurances and promises given by this administration during the course of the last federal election. If this government wants to warrant a different assessment of its conduct, let it follow the kind of leadership which the President of the United States is giving with regard to this problem—

Mr. Starr: What are they doing?

Mr. Martin (Essex East):—instead of palliatives, instead of anaemic programs such as the winter works program which, the minister said in November, would put 111,000 people to work during a limited period in the winter months. The minister said, as reported by the *Ottawa Journal* on November 15, that work was provided for 121,000 people last winter and it was expected to provide jobs for 150,000 this winter. One hundred and fifty jobs—

Mr. Starr: One hundred and fifty thousand.

Mr. Martin (Essex East):—at a time when unemployment has reached 543,000. This government, which undertook to see to it that no one would suffer as a result of unemployment—

Mr. Starr: Would the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): When I am finished. Now we are told by this government that it has not been able to provide work even for the total number which it said it would provide for. Not only are we confronted by this serious situation, but we find that those who are out of work are continuing to be faced with the possibility that unless this government takes strong measures to boost the unemployment insurance fund there may not be sufficient moneys in that fund to enable the government to carry out its obligations to the unemployed and to those who have contractual rights in connection with that fund.

An hon. Member: Sounds like a scare campaign.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Yes, if the hon. member wants to interpret it in that way. But does the hon. member, who comes from the Atlantic provinces where almost 15 per cent of the work force is out of work, think it is not the function of those who are in the opposition, as well as of those on his side, to bring home to the government the seriousness of the problem and the inadequate way, the anaemic way, the lethargic way in which this government continues to meet this problem?

Mr. Starr: Would the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): At the end of my speech.

Mr. Starr: You do not want to hear some figures?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Yes, I do, but I want to take my full time to bring home to this government—

Mr. Starr: I merely wish to give the correct figures.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): In that case, very well.

Mr. Starr: The hon. member stated that there was a rise in unemployment between December and January of some 134,000. Does he not realize that 108,000 of these are people who have been engaged in seasonable occupations?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): The minister knows perfectly well that although that may look good to the uninitiated on paper, it does not confront the problem at all. He is saying