

*Supply—Labour*

not be taken to meet what I believe to be a temporary situation this winter. This government has taken active measures to meet this short term situation and is taking additional ones.

After five months in office, after plenty of time to acquaint himself with all the information that was available, this was the considered judgment of the Prime Minister.

The other day the Minister of Public Works challenged me to say something about the hidden report. I am going to say something about it in relation to this matter, and what I am going to say is this. No one in this house believes that the Prime Minister had not already seen the hidden report when he made that statement. Certainly the Minister of Veterans Affairs, who was then minister of trade and commerce, would not say that he had not had that report drawn to his attention before the 25th of November, 1957. Therefore when the Prime Minister made the statement that this was a pause, that unemployment was less serious than it was in 1954 and 1955, that it was a temporary thing for that winter only, he made it in the light of the information that was available to him from all the files of the government including this so-called hidden report.

I think it is useful to have that perspective, because it has been the fashion for hon. gentlemen to say that they were too stupid—I am paraphrasing them—to see things for themselves that the Liberal government with its much greater foresight had foreseen months before. But the fact of the matter is that all the information that was available to the Liberal government was available to these gentlemen, and a great deal more; and the judgment of the Prime Minister in November of 1957 was that this was a pause and a levelling off from which we would rise to greater heights.

The fact is, of course, that this was the beginning of a recession, not a very deep recession but one which went on through 1958 and which the government claimed was over in 1959. They did not see that there were any chronic elements in it. They claimed it was over, and they have claimed it has been over two or three times since. In other words, they simply failed at any time to pay any attention to the facts.

These are not the only facts they ignore. They publish propaganda literature designed to impress the electorate which is filled with statements—there is only one word for it—that are patently false. Here is one, for example, from this little booklet to which I referred the other day in which the government boasted it had increased relief payments by 847 per cent. Just imagine any government in the world boasting that it had increased relief payments 847 per cent. What a topsy-turvy kind of government, to boast

about increasing unemployment relief and then to say that unemployment is not serious. You know, it passes comprehension, sir.

Here is another statement from this booklet entitled "Still more action for Canada and Canadians":

For the first time,—

This was after this government had come into office.

—fishermen and other seasonal workers are included under its coverage.

This statement is false; it is completely and utterly false. So far as I am aware, there has not been a single seasonal worker put under unemployment insurance since the present government came into office. There has been no change in the unemployment insurance legislation since the present government came into office except an increase in the contributions by about 30 per cent. This is the only change they have made. The seasonal workers, rightly or wrongly—there are some people who condemn it—were included under the legislation by various changes in the years before the change of government. The fishermen were included in the spring of 1957 by an act of this parliament, an act which was praised by all parties in the house. The legislation came into effect on April 1, 1957, just about three months before hon. gentlemen went over to the treasury benches.

They had persistently and consistently made these false statements ever since. It is all of a piece with what they do, and whether it is deliberately false or whether it is done from ignorance, I do not know. I do not know which I would be prouder of if I were in the shoes of hon. gentlemen opposite. Do they want to boast that they are so ignorant they cannot produce the facts or are they deliberately trying to fool the people? There is no third possibility.

**An hon. Member:** You said that last year.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** And it deserves to be said again. It seems to me that either they are using a deliberate campaign of falsification to get the support of the public or they are so ignorant of the law they do not know what they are talking about.

In order to give you an idea of how ignorant they can be, and here I feel I must use the word "ignorant"—

**Mr. Jones:** Your language is certainly limited.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** The hon. gentleman will perhaps wish to say something when I have finished this quotation. I have here, from the Prime Minister's office, a copy of a document entitled, "Notes for a Speech by the