

*Alleged Failure of Employment Policies*

know if all the economists agree with this position, but certainly it seems a weird, strange idea to induce unemployment in order to combat inflation. There surely must be some other method. We can quote endless statistics in this debate showing how the government have brought misery into the lives of countless thousands of Canadian citizens. However, I do not think that is the answer because the government have a well-trained habit of hiding behind and, if necessary, of distorting statistics—as mentioned by the previous speaker.

We must look beyond the statistical data related to this scandalous issue and so must the government. While the government may attempt to hide behind the statistics, I wonder how long and how well they can hide behind the stares of the unemployed searching vainly for work, behind the misery of the young, who are finding quickly that opportunity is virtually non-existent today. People who are coming out of university cannot find jobs and students cannot find summer jobs. The government cannot hide behind the questions of the man thrown out of work in the prime of his life who has been told, with the old shrugging, "Well, it's necessary so that we can give you a better life."

What is this better life to a man who cannot find a job? What is this better life, this just society? Well, maybe I am not supposed to mention that. The Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) recently said at Carleton University that he thought we should bury that phrase now. It served its purpose of getting him into power, so, we should quietly put it away. Yes, the government is already condemned, and condemned by its very arrogance in its approach to this problem. On its own admission, it stands guilty of the charge. Hasn't it admitted that it must create unemployment to defeat inflation, and hasn't it defended this plan? Well, we still have inflation, and the highest unemployment rates for six years.

How far does the government intend to go in boosting unemployment in this land of ours? Is it to continue? Is unemployment to go higher. The Prime Minister, in a pre-Christmas statement before he went skin-diving, or doing some skiing, or taking some other vacation of the many that he has had in the period of a year—

**Mr. Pepin:** That is cheap, Bob.

**Mr. Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys):** The Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce should not comment.

[Mr. Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys).]

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** There was nothing very cheap about it.

**Mr. Comeau:** They are expensive trips.

**Mr. Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys):** Yes, they are not cheap. However, the Minister knows we are telling the truth and that is why he resorts to the statement, "That is cheap, Bob." He does not mean that. Smiling Jack is always smiling, and he does not really mean that. He knows it is unfortunate that we have a Prime Minister who is so happy and so willing to go on so many vacations. But when there are problems, great problems, surely he should not be always out of the country or going on these many trips.

I say that in all sincerity. I think he should stay around here and try to solve these problems with his great expertise, his great knowledge, and that amazing staff which he has. One wonders how he finds time to speak to the 75 members of the staff that he has in his office. I suppose they speak to each other, and one asks, "What are you doing". Then the other asks, "What are you doing"? and they really do not know.

The Prime Minister says he could live with 6 per cent unemployment. We are already beyond 6 per cent unemployment. He said it would not worry him. I ask what rate of unemployment is the government prepared to set as a safety limit so far as it is concerned? There is no safe limit so far as the unemployed are concerned. What is the acceptable unemployment rate now in the eyes of the government? What is the cut-off figure, a figure that might be used as a gauge by the government itself to know when the limit has been reached and that it had better think again instead of monkeying with the lives of so many Canadian citizens?

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** It being one o'clock I do now leave the Chair until two o'clock.

At one o'clock the House took recess.

**AFTER RECESS**

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** The hon. member for Cape Breton-The Sydneys.

**Mr. Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys):** Mr. Speaker, just prior to the luncheon adjournment I was posing a number of questions to the government with reference to unemploy-