

will provide a great deal of employment and is the result of a very specific policy to achieve this end.

As described by the previous speaker, we have announced a number of programs to assist students this summer. There have been a number of specific measures proposed, but time limits me from going into detail. This is a result of the wisdom of conventional advice being put forward by those who have special responsibility in this matter, Mr. Speaker. I look to the economists in the universities and elsewhere in Canadian society who are free to assess the problem and give advice. They have a great job to do, and the challenge is as much with them as with anybody else.

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville):** After listening to the hon. member for Ottawa West (Mr. Francis), Mr. Speaker, I have the impression that we do not have many problems in this country. When we solve one problem we go ahead and create another one. He seemed to say that in order to solve the problem of high costs and inflation we have to create unemployment, and then to solve the problem of unemployment we have to create higher costs and more inflation. This is the type of conventional wisdom with which many people are becoming fed up. It is smug, upper middle-class Liberal rhetoric and is not helping the poor or the unemployed, the people on fixed incomes or old age pensioners.

● (4:50 p.m.)

It is very easy for us in this House to pat ourselves on the back. I think that too often many who sit in the seats of power do not know what the world is like outside. How many of these people have been out there? How many know what it is to go hungry and not have enough money to buy clothes for their children or live in a decent house? I do not think they know about these things. It is very easy to treat people as statistics, ledgers or files. It is easy to look at this country and the world in terms of gross national product and unemployment rates going up or down half of 1 per cent. We seem to forget the human element of society, and the hon. member for Ottawa West has once again demonstrated this.

Yesterday the hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich (Mr. Anderson), a Liberal member, was talking about some of these things. I think he knows about these matters better than some of us on this side of the House, because he sits in the Liberal caucus. That Member of Parliament claims that he is being shoved aside by the establishment on the government side of the House.

**Mr. McGrath:** Shame!

**Mr. Nystrom:** He says he has been informed that the government is removing him from membership of the joint parliamentary committee that is to investigate pollution in the Arctic and elsewhere. He says that all they want around here are people who will stay in line, who will lick boots and who will keep their noses clean. I think that just about sums up what many people are starting to think about the government of Canada. It is very smug, very complacent and somewhere up in the clouds.

#### *Economic Growth and Employment Situation*

Yesterday the unemployment figures were released for the month of February. I notice that many government members seemed to take great satisfaction from the fact that unemployment went up by only a few thousand as compared with the previous month. Yet still over 8.1 per cent of the Canadian people are unemployed: there are 675,000 people registered as unemployed. I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that this is not the complete story, that thousands of people in Canada are unemployed but are not registered in the unemployment figures. Many of these people have families. If you were to add them all up, I am sure you would find that over two million people in Canada are affected one way or another because of our high rate of unemployment.

Let us look at two or three instances of unemployment in the country. We find that unemployment has gone up in Quebec; it now stands at 10.4 per cent of the labour force. In Atlantic Canada it stands at 11 per cent of the labour force. You can talk about national unity and about one country, but I suggest that if this country is to stay together, all regions must be equal partners within confederation. The Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and the Liberal party have talked much about cures, about ridding Canada of regional disparities and of making this country united. That government has done more to destroy unity in this country and to set one region against another than any government in our history. Factors like the 10 per cent unemployment rate in Quebec are causing this disunity. Is it any wonder that many Quebecers are saying today, "Maybe we should consider getting out of confederation"?

**Mr. McGrath:** The unemployment rate is 15.2 per cent in Newfoundland.

**Mr. Nystrom:** My hon. friend says that the unemployment rate in Newfoundland is 15.2 per cent. It stands at 11 per cent in the Maritimes generally. That is completely unforgivable—the Canadian people should not forgive this government for deliberately creating unemployment as a means of fighting inflation. It has done so deliberately. The Minister of Labour (Mr. Mackasey) boasted in this House on January 20 that the government has created unemployment. He said, as recorded at page 2507 of *Hansard*:

It takes courage sometimes to create unemployment. We have created unemployment in the textile industry and we will probably create it temporarily in other industries—

**Mr. Douglas:** It also takes a lot of stupidity.

**Mr. Nystrom:** My leader says that it also takes a lot of stupidity. Economists have said we have probably lost \$5 billion in production as a result of high unemployment in Canada. This means that governments in Canada, federal, provincial and municipal, have lost between \$1 billion and \$1.5 billion in tax revenue. They would have gained that revenue if the people had been working and producing. The people of Canada do not want handouts; they do not want welfare. They want opportunities to work.

Since I have only a few moments left, may I say a few words about another group of people which is taking the brunt of the government's unemployment policies, the