

Alleged Failure to Reduce Unemployment

have taken a very pessimistic approach to the economic problems facing Canada today. They have adopted an attitude which is not only corrosive but very abrasive indeed. I shall leave this approach to the members of the opposition, since it appears to be their field of endeavour.

Present conditions in Canada are very much on the bright side. Canada is a wonderful country, and if anybody feels that he has no faith in Canada's future let him pack up and leave because others will be glad to come and take his place. I have the utmost faith in the achievements of this government. It has been able to give the country solid and realistic guidance.

Not one member of the opposition referred to any of the positive programs that the government has introduced. I appreciate that we cannot solve all our labour problems; nor can we solve all industrial and economic problems because of constantly changing conditions. We are asked on this side of the house to lose our arrogance; I submit we are far from arrogant and we are also responsible.

It is true that some operations of the government do require alteration. But this is progress. Progress requires change, reorganization and improvement where necessary. Admittedly, there are areas of distress such as the setbacks in agriculture with sagging wheat sales; the recent grain handlers strike at the Lakehead, the settlement of which imposed a further financial burden on the western farmer; and conditions in respect of the wheat itself that have hurt Manitoban farmers far more than those in Saskatchewan and Alberta. I am not in completely happy with the economic conditions that exist today, but I know that with hard work and proper constructive criticism we can go forward and achieve much.

I should like to mention a few facets of Canada's electrification program that some hon. members have purposely avoided mentioning. This program is one of the most creative advances made in the field of electrical transmission by any country in the entire world. Canada's applied knowledge in the field of electrical power production is second to none in the world today. We have hydro-electric power development in Canada which is developing some 132 million kilowatt hours. We have thermal electrical power producing some 32 million kilowatt hours, and nuclear power that is producing 140,000 kilowatt hours.

[Mr. Smerchanski.]

Atomic Energy of Canada has worked out one of the most impressive, imaginative and vital trans-continental links in the dominion of Canada. The western system has enabled us to have a direct power hook-up with Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan. The western system is shortly to be tied in with that of Quebec Hydro, and in this manner, through the efforts of Atomic Energy of Canada in conjunction with every provincial hydro commission, we will be assured of no more blackouts in Canada. In addition, Atomic Energy of Canada has made a further breakthrough in one of the most advanced and exciting fields of endeavour in the world.

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

Mr. Smerchanski: After I am through. Atomic Energy of Canada, jointly with Manitoba Hydro, are engineering a project that will transmit power from the northern parts of Manitoba to Winnipeg under direct current transmission instead of the usual alternating current transmission that has been in use in Canada. This system for the transmission of direct power is the only known use of this type of operation in the world. The additional power that will come into the southern parts of Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan will create more jobs and industries.

The Nelson River development in northern Manitoba will provide isolated areas in northern Manitoba and northern Ontario with a microwave network which will enable the residents of these areas to enjoy television service. It will also enable the Manitoba Hydro to operate hydro power installations by microwave, and will enable the transmission, distribution and operation of the entire hydro-electric complex to be controlled remotely.

In addition, I forgot to mention one other important feature. Atomic Energy of Canada, jointly with Quebec Hydro, have been able to establish the first power research laboratory in the province of Quebec. This particular research institute is located at Varennes, Quebec, and cost \$28 million. It is the only establishment of its kind on this continent that is able to undertake electrical power research on such a large scale. People from all over the United States come to the institute to learn methods of electrical transmission. I think this augurs well for the aggressive approach the government is taking to the development of research and industry.