

National Economic Development Board

I would also like to draw to the attention of the house the action taken by the government in fixing the dollar. We have already seen, because of this action, an increase in exports. As I said a few minutes ago, exports are running ahead of last year. We have also seen that because of the pegging of the dollar more goods have been produced in Canada for Canadians—

Mr. Tardif: By Canadians.

Mr. Graftey:—by Canadians. Mr. Speaker, I notice the facetiousness with which hon. members opposite greet the fact that I am putting these things on the record. I know they are trying to sell short this young country of ours. I know that after telling people at home and abroad that everything is gloom and doom they do not like to hear these things talked about; but the facts are there and the people of this country know about them. This new board will work in conjunction with the government on the programs I have already mentioned; it will work in conjunction with programs that this administration is putting before, and will continue to put before, the House of Commons for consideration. I am sure that the people of Canada and the members of this administration will tackle these programs with optimism. Optimism is one of the principles of the party I support. This kind of Liberalism, born in Ricardian gloom and doom, was never more evident than it is today. I have never seen anything like it in my life. In this reckless, power-at-any-cost attitude, the Liberal party has adopted the principle of pessimism. But because of what you have said in the last five years the people of Canada are becoming suspicious of you. Have you ever said one good thing about this nation?

Some hon. Members: Yes.

Mr. Graftey: Put it on the record, if you have said it. You cannot, because you have not said it. You go from coast to coast preaching gloom and doom. Well, this administration and the members of the party I support are going to tackle these programs with optimism. Optimism is the keynote of faith; optimism is the mood of this nation, in spite of the pessimism and the doom you like to preach. But this is not a program of gloom and doom or an attitude of gloom and doom that the people of Canada are going to buy. They have caught on to that game and they are going to join this administration in tackling all these programs which are going to work in conjunction with this board; they are going to tackle them with the high note of

[Mr. Graftey.]

optimism which has always been the principle and the keynote attitude of the party that I support in this house.

Mr. J. C. Munro (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the parliamentary secretary who has just spoken would be interested in a deal. I would suggest to him that if he will pay my expenses to visit his riding I will take the dare and perhaps suffer the wrath of his constituents, if he will accept the invitation to come to my constituency and face the industrial riding of Hamilton East. Perhaps then the hon. member would come down to reality. Perhaps he would like to come to my office on a Saturday morning and see lines and lines of unemployed men—it even gets to the point where you have to hand out numbers—seeking jobs in what may be considered the industrial heart of Canada.

Some hon. Members: Doom and gloom.

Mr. Munro: Yes, and it is doom and gloom. That is how the citizens of Canada felt last June when they showed by their vote that they had lost confidence in this government. At any rate, my offer is open and I would love the parliamentary secretary to come to Hamilton and speak to these unemployed men. Perhaps his colourful phraseology will make them feel better, as they go home at night without a job and without sufficient funds to maintain a family properly. It was also interesting to hear the parliamentary secretary talk about this Conservative government and how it stands for the freedom of the individual. Perhaps he does not remember the Coyne affair, when Mr. Coyne—perhaps one of the foremost financial people of this country—was denied even a hearing when he was arbitrarily fired by this government.

Perhaps when the parliamentary secretary talks about and extolls his party for honouring the rights of parliament he will feel the dissatisfaction of the Canadian people over the fact that this parliament, after sitting for two months, has not even given this house a chance to debate the surcharges that his government imposed a few months ago. When he talks about all his government has done, and its accomplishments, when he talks about the manpower adjustment bill that was introduced the other day, and indicates that his government—though he does not like the word “planning”—is taking into consideration all these factors of dislocation, perhaps it would be advisable for him to consider whether it would not have been better for the Minister of Labour (Mr. Starr) to have brought in his manpower adjustment bill before he cancelled the Avro Arrow and threw about 18,000 men out of work. That