

The Budget—Mrs. Casselman

11.4, or in 1940 when it was 9.2 per cent. Other countries must look at us in amazement. They have their employment problems also, as all democracies do. I submit that it is bad enough to be making a political football of unemployment, but the lack of facts and realistic figures produced by the opposition sometimes makes me think the subject is being blown up into a political beachball.

This easy political approach is very understandable but none the more commendable for that. My learned and honourable friends in the opposition know full well the dangers of irresponsible and unrealistic criticism of any government—

Mr. Pearson: We ought to. We listened to it for long enough.

Mrs. Casselman: They should know better than anyone else in this house the basic impossibility of suggesting at the same time more and more government expenditure and less and less taxation. We are all very much aware in this house of the loss both to the country and to individual happiness which results from unemployment, but I submit that it is equally detrimental to Canada to try to lead more and more people to expect more and more solutions, more and more assistance from the government. If we are to continue with our free enterprise economy we cannot go on increasing government obligations indefinitely without increasing government restrictions and controls to say nothing of the taxation involved.

Anyone who has sat in this house for many years or who has analysed cause and effect has observed that some of our most insidious problems today have arisen from government succumbing to pressures and devising for their own immediate popularity solutions which have been detrimental to individual Canadian character, to pride of achievement, to ambition and to honesty itself.

I was interested in a press report of a statement made by my charming colleague from Niagara Falls (Miss LaMarsh) when she said that her party should prefer to be right rather than popular. I should hope that anyone connected with politics would adhere to that principle.

The hon. member for Essex East (Mr. Martin) was reported during the Christmas recess to have suggested that if private enterprise could not cure unemployment he would approve of and agree with public ownership. I suggest that much of the question whether private enterprise can succeed depends on the individual Canadian's attitude. From anything I have seen, read or heard I do not think that socialization produces any more, if as much, efficiency. I want very

much to see the challenges of competition remain for Canadians and the satisfaction of meeting these challenges by individual initiative and energy.

I commend the government for accepting its share of responsibility for employment. I commend it equally for not falling prey to all the slick, comfortable, socialized recommendations that have been made, and for placing upon individual Canadians their share of responsibility, too. I know there are many who welcome this attitude. We have all heard in this house and outside the importance of small businesses as a source of diversified employment. I commend the government for its action in raising from \$25,000 to \$35,000 the bracket subject to 21 per cent corporation tax. As mentioned by my colleague and political neighbour, the hon. member for Carleton (Mr. Bell), in his sound and excellent speech last week, this becomes doubly important when added to Bill No. C-40 passed before Christmas respecting loans to small businesses. If the percentage of small businesses interested in this legislation in Grenville-Dundas is any criterion, it is going to be welcomed and much used.

The fact that tourist business is included in this provision is of great importance to my area. Last September we opened the new international Prescott-Ogdensburg bridge over which we hope to attract many United States tourists next summer. We welcome all assistance that will bring these visitors to our country, that will assist our small businesses to give them service and do business with them.

In Grenville-Dundas we have historic sites that are among the earliest in Canada. Next July the Ontario St. Lawrence parks commission will open upper Canada village, which is already being visited as a wonderful example of historic preservation. Canada has many facilities for tourists, and with the sound policy of this government and the welcome and courtesy of our individual Canadians we can act Canadian, sell Canadian, see Canadian, enjoy Canadian and change the \$200 million deficit in the tourist industry to a \$200 million surplus. Without setting up restrictions or subsidization this government has improved the situation for this great industry so infinite in its expansion possibilities.

By making borrowing abroad less attractive our Canadian dollar is reaching parity with the United States dollar. The benefits of this situation are well-known to the people of my district, and we will benefit greatly next tourist season. Even now we are feeling the benefit in our export selling across the border.