

Mr. Oberle: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, since the Solicitor General (Mr. Fox) allowed himself to participate in the speech of the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton (Mr. Baker) to a large extent, I wonder if he would accept a question?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. This can only be allowed with the unanimous consent of the House. Besides, the minister does not have the floor so there is no way he can answer a question. The question should have been put when he was speaking. The hon. member for Timiskaming (Mr. Peters).

Mr. Oberle: Mr. Speaker, the minister was intervening throughout the speech of the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton, so perhaps he would not mind answering a question.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member can speak to the minister outside the House. The minister is not entitled to speak twice in the debate, and he has used up his time. The hon. member for Timiskaming.

Mr. Arnold Peters (Timiskaming): Mr. Speaker, I should like to pursue the matter under discussion, because I think it will be with us for many days and it is not going to bring any great repute to the people involved. I have been interested in the subject for a long time, because I think our police force has been used in ways it should not be used. I remember the RCMP sitting in front of my house for days, so I am interested in the problem.

There is a more practical and much broader problem that affects the people in my part of the country today, however, than whether they are under surveillance by the RCMP. Most people would let them in the house if they asked, but that would take all the fun out of snooping so they probably would not accept the invitation. In Canada today we are faced with unemployment and an economic situation very similar to that of the depression in the 1930s. I hope that we of this generation have more guts than our fathers had.

An hon. Member: I doubt it.

Mr. Peters: Maybe we do not, but I hope we have and I hope the young people of today will have more guts than their fathers. It seems to me we have a very intelligent, highly educated, highly sophisticated society. If we can allow 1½ million people, out of a labour force of 6½ million, to be unemployed and not do something about it, I think we have failed that society and it will drift into the Ten Lost Years as our parents drifted into the decade of the thirties. Surely that will not happen; surely something will be done about it.

The government talks about buying armaments and sophisticated weapons. The minister mentioned a weapon commonly known as the neutron bomb that apparently does not destroy property but only kills people. It seems to me we are more barbaric than our ancestors away back in the time of the cavemen. We have to do something about it, rather than wait for the obvious solution that is already on the horizon: I mean war. There will be another Hitler or the equivalent, whether in

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Israel, Rhodesia or South Africa, and that will bring an end to unemployment for Canadians and most of the people of the world. Of course, most people will be dead anyway and civilization will be set right back.

Unless governments, industry and all people co-operate to see that employment is provided, there will be a serious rending of the fabric of the nation, and very rapidly too. INCO has indicated that 3,000 people will be laid off in Sudbury, 700 at Thompson and 1,200 at Port Colborne. One of the mines in my area, the Langmuir joint venture—a joint venture of INCO and Noranda—has announced that operations will cease early next spring and 115 to 120 employees will be laid off. Mr. Speaker, it may be all very well to lay off 2,000 or 5,000 people in Montreal, and it may be all right to lay off 5,000 or 10,000 in Toronto or some other city, but any lay-off is a disaster in a small community that is based on one industry.

While I was home during the recess I received four telephone calls. One was from Timmins, inquiring if I could provide any assistance in bringing a nanny out from England. Apparently the wife had left home and the husband was finding it very difficult to cope with two small children. The same day I had three calls from my own area, and in each case the husband had walked out on the wife. These were all young couples with two or three children. I made the facetious remark to the people who handle social and family services that we should look over the files and try to match the deserted husband with one of the deserted wives and somehow put them all together and thus solve the problem for both parties. I was told that could not be done as they were all young people and the neighbours might talk. Maybe that is true, and I certainly do not want to act as an Ann Landers in matching them up. Mr. Speaker, this just indicates the disasters that take place immediately upon unemployment.

It has been suggested that some of the people being laid off might find work in Timmins. The Texasgulf operation there has already dispensed with most of its contract workers, however, and has announced on a number of occasions that it will not lay off workers. That is true so far, but recently statements from the company are to the effect that they hope they will not have to lay off people in Timmins. Mr. Speaker, there will obviously be lay-offs because the price of zinc is down. There will be lay-offs, too, in the Noranda area where there is a branch of the McIntyre mine whose main production is copper. The price of gold fell, so there is little exploration in that field, and until that happens they will have to depend on the copper operation alone. That will mean lay-offs.

Being laid off today is not like it was years ago when you may have had a father or grandfather, or even an uncle who lived on the farm. If you were laid off, you could go home and stay on the farm. That is no longer possible. In this country we are very proud that people own their dwellings—they and the finance company, and mostly the finance company. They have an interest in the house they live in and bought from their savings. Even if 10 per cent of their pay cheque were put into savings, clear of the mortgage payment on the car, on the