

Economic Policies and Unemployment

to Canada. He mentioned Sweden in particular and told us there was less inflation there than there was here. But statistics show that Sweden has suffered even more from inflation than has Canada in recent years. Of course, the fact that we are doing better than certain other countries does not mean we should slacken our efforts in fighting inflation. We are a rich country with great resources, so we should not use excuses of that kind. On the other hand, we should not be too critical of ourselves and the steps we are taking to meet this problem.

The unemployment figures are not figures of a kind we want to see; nevertheless a wide range of government programs is under way to reverse the present trend and to bring more job opportunities into being. The process of making more jobs available in Canada will not be assisted by the kind of controversy which has been instigated by opposition members today. Some of them are capable of advancing one or two constructive and practical ideas, and all of us would welcome their contributions if they showed themselves willing to make them.

Mr. Baldwin: I just have one comment to make, Mr. Speaker. I think the economic policy of this government was well exemplified by the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp) when as Acting Prime Minister he was asked about the housing program and said it was going in fits and starts. It is all fits and no starts, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Pepin: A great contribution!

Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, I know you very often hear an hon. member rise and say it had not been his intention to make a speech. I say it now. I can no longer sit in my place after listening to the speech of the previous speaker.

An. hon. Member: That was the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin).

Mr. Winch: I meant the hon. member for Burnaby-Seymour (Mr. Perrault).

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Speech, you call it?

• (4:50 p.m.)

Mr. Winch: Listening to his remarks we can completely understand why, when he was provincial leader of the Liberal Party they made no progress whatsoever. I very much [Mr. Perrault.]

regret that since he has come to the House of Commons he has not learned very much.

Mr. Speaker: Order please. I have to interrupt the hon. member and remind him that there is a motion before the House. The motion does not refer, so far as I have been able to find out, to the hon. member for Burnaby-Seymour (Mr. Perrault) and he should not be the subject of debate. I invite the hon. member to direct his remarks to the subject of the motion that is now before the House.

Mr. Winch: Mr. Speaker, you are completely correct, but I regret that you draw this to my attention and not to the attention of the hon. member for Burnaby-Seymour, who never touched the subject. The hon. member for Burnaby-Seymour said that it was the responsibility of the opposition to give direction to the government on matters of policy relating to the important issues of inflation and unemployment. I say, sir, that this is not our responsibility. To use the words of the hon. member for Burnaby-Seymour, we should be a bank of information. I would remind him that this government was elected on the promise that they had the answers to the problems of inflation and unemployment. If the government had accepted our suggestions, a great many problems would have been resolved before now.

The remarks of the hon. member for Burnaby-Seymour have prompted me to rise to my feet, because his constituency lies adjacent to mine.

Mr. Comeau: You mean, he has no unemployment?

Mr. Winch: That is the very point I am coming to. I suggest that the hon. member for Burnaby-Seymour, who was speaking on behalf of the government on the subject of inflation and unemployment, should not have the temerity to ask the opposition how to solve those problems because, as I have said, he and his government were elected on their promise that they had the answers and would bring about not only a just society but full employment. I ask the hon. member for Burnaby-Seymour please not to leave at this point, because he failed to mention that in his riding and mine at the present time the rate of unemployment is running at 6.6 per cent, higher than at any point during the last seven years.

Mr. Bell: He forgot to mention that.