

understanding of the problems facing this country. If the minister does not believe me, then all he has to do is pick up a document that emerged yesterday, the report of the Prices and Incomes Commission. They have sustained the view that the Leader of the Opposition advanced long ago.

If he does not believe me, he can consult the former minister of finance, who in his great conversion a few months ago has moved to the very points of view that the Leader of the Opposition had been proclaiming across this country month upon month. If he does not find conviction there, he can look at what the Leader of the Opposition said many months ago about the fate of the Canadian dollar. On that matter, too, his views have been verified, underscored, underwritten and sustained.

I have the greatest regard for the President of the Privy Council. He is a fine scholar and a great exponent of the Gaelic people. But I thought that today he might have been following the advice that I am told an old Speaker gave to an incipient orator, that when the going gets tough you should yell like hell. Perhaps that was the advice he was following.

I was also impressed by the hon. member who preceded me. He was obviously a man of immense courage, because in his 15 minutes he actually took time out to say what a wonderful job the present government had done with respect to poverty. Of all things to bring out in the performance of the government! I am inclined to look at the document that the Senate committee produced after careful study, certainly much more time than 15 minutes. They opened their report "Poverty in Canada" with this, alas, much more serious statement:

Poverty is the great social issue of our time. Unless we act now, nationally, in a new and purposeful way, five million Canadians will continue to find life a bleak, bitter, and never-ending struggle for survival.

In the face of documentation of this kind how can anyone believe that they are credible when they stand up and tell this House and the people of Canada that this country has never had it so good? I notice that the minister complained that on 14 occasions there have been motions on unemployment. Why 14? Because the problem is there. Unemployment stalks this land yet, and the efforts of the government with reference thereto have usually been such as to increase the burden and exacerbate the problem. As they have backed away from one economic policy after another they have finally realized the outrageous situation that they have allowed to develop. For a modern, wealthy, great country to be burdened with the rate of unemployment that Canada has is simply outrageous, intolerable and absolutely unnecessary.

To stand up and proclaim that things are going well would not go very far with the young people of Canada today. Never have more of our young people been so anxious and frustrated about the future. There is not a member of the House who does not hear day after day from the fine young people of Canada—university graduates, high school graduates and graduates from technical institutes. What is their problem? It is that they cannot find work and that they want work.

I am not one who believes that our young people are a mass of lazy louts who want handouts. They want jobs but they cannot get them. Year after years this government

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has proven its incapacity and inability to provide meaningful employment. As one of my eloquent colleagues says, the government have also revealed their insensitivity to the problem. In their great desire to push inflation around the corner—obviously it has not even been pushed around the corner—they said they would stand all sorts of unemployment and let the people like it. Tell the youth of the day that the country was never better governed! Tell the youth of today that they never had it so good!

Mention has been made of various programs—ad hoc programs, Opportunities for Youth, LIP, and so on. Of course, they do help; with such a terrible burden of unemployment we welcome anything that is an improvement. But what happens when these programs end? What is the situation when the young people are laid off as each little project is completed? The blight on our economy remains. The figures continue to be appalling.

From the very beginning of his career as Leader of the Opposition—and he will not be there very long; he will be going across the floor soon—the Leader of the Opposition has singled out unemployment as the economic crime that must be fought, and he has fought it vigorously, wisely and well. The hon. member who preceded me complimented the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Chrétien). I love to hear ministers being complimented. He has taken a heck of a long time in getting a second park for Prince Edward Island. This matter has been discussed for five years, so the minister is not responsible for all of the delay.

However, are our native Indian people happy with this government? I have been watching the scene for some years now—I am not as old as I look—and I have never seen greater unrest or more anxiety than I see today among the native people of this country. They are frustrated and uncertain. They are organizing their beefs and their discontent as never before in the land. I am not surprised, because there is far too much cold, callous reaction toward the great needs of these people. I note with satisfaction that they themselves are articulating their problems and pressing their complaints. But much more must be done.

**Mr. Chrétien:** Never was so much money given them.

**Mr. Macquarrie:** If the minister is satisfied that they are properly looked after and that there is no problem, then he may live in that dream world. But I do not, and I think the Indian people will agree not with him but with me. The minister from Nova Scotia suggested that the Leader of the Opposition was not sufficiently decisive. Such an allegation from a member of such a government! He is a literal and lineal descendant of Mackenzie King: "conscription if necessary, but not necessarily conscription." "Foreign ownership yes, but foreign ownership no." "Election expenses yes, but election expenses no."

We have had a grand grab-bag of pusillanimous, self-contradictory, internally distorted legislation presented by this government. Would we say that the foreign take-over bill is decisive? It had a delayed pregnancy, perhaps that was the problem, but I would never produce it if I wanted to look at something that was the epitome of decision.