

Somebody has to face these facts, even though our small population does not justify it on a political basis.

Fourth, we must reassess our policy of incentives and loans to industry, especially in the slow growth areas. The three recent reports by the Minister of Finance and his parliamentary secretary bear me out on this. They indicate that in the slow growth areas, such as in the Atlantic regions, particular industries cannot avail themselves of the loans guaranteed by the government. The lending institutions refuse to co-operate. I am not saying the legislation is bad, but some way has to be found to enable industries to take fuller advantage of loan programs. If we expect these industries to recover, expand, grow and develop, we must make money available to them. The industries that find it most difficult to avail themselves of loans at the present time are the industries in the slow growth areas.

The major point I want to make is that the tax uncertainty in this nation has a crippling effect on our economy. People do not know where they are going. They do not know whether to expand. They do not know whether to take their few dollars out of the bank and invest them because they do not know when this valuation of assets will take place. They do not know about capital gains, the protective tariffs for small business and concessions to mining companies. All in all, the tax uncertainty is having a detrimental effect on the economy. The minister has been on the horns of a dilemma for a year in connection with these tax proposals. I am not prepared to wait for a month. Some indication has to be given of the present tax position of this government.

Another point is that the government must reassess its priorities. Many members religiously avoid mentioning the emphasis that is put today on linguistic equality in this nation. I continuously receive representations from concerned Canadian taxpayers on this matter. There is a tremendous effort being made in this country to bring about linguistic equality. On the west coast of the province of Newfoundland there is a place called Port au Port. The hon. member who represents that area can speak with authority on this. There is a very small group of people who live in that district who have been assimilated over the years. Now, this area has been classified as a bilingual district. Everything must be done on a bilingual basis, including the distribution of information. I believe it was in 1964 that Professor Stoker, a linguistic expert at the university, said that three years previously the process of assimilation had reached the stage where the people no longer had any desire to have a separate culture or anything of this nature. Yet that part of our country has been designated as a bilingual district.

Every day dozens of circulars and pieces of literature cross my desk. Whether we like it or not, they are printed in both languages. I can go further and state that there are civil servants taking language immersion courses who will retire before their courses are completed. There is no sense to this. I contend that a lot of problems in Canada, including Quebec, are economic, not language problems. I would like to see the present gov-

ernment reassess the problems and adopt some policy positions.

● (5:30 p.m.)

Ever since 1968 the Prime Minister of this country has acted like a great, charismatic leader on television, in this House and elsewhere. I have never heard him state in the House or publicly what he considers to be the priorities for this nation. I have never heard him state any clear, definitive policy positions. I have never heard him state any manpower policy positions. I have never heard him state any foreign-ownership policy positions. I have never heard him state any resource development policy position. This country cannot continue without being given some indication of over-all government policy.

You cannot kiss away the problems facing the Canadian nation at this moment. You cannot kiss away the unemployment problem facing Canada, the depression being experienced by the agricultural industry or the forest industry. Someone has to stand up and sanely, soberly and rationally lay down priorities and policy positions that are based on hard-nosed facts.

This is not a popularity contest that we are running, Mr. Speaker. Here we are in the month of May, and I suggest it is not enough for the Minister of Finance to tell the country that we are going to recover, that unemployment is going downhill. Are Canadians going to be satisfied come September when they have had only six weeks' work? I remind hon. gentlemen across the way that there are 659,000 Canadians out of work. Are they going to be satisfied, when the lay-offs start in September and the cold winter months are ahead of them, that this country is commencing a recovery? In my own province 16.4 per cent of the people are unemployed. This represents 25,000 people. This is the most diluted kind of statistic because the true figure may be more than 20 per cent. When people tell me that things are going to be better next week, I tell them that they are not better today. The Trudeaumania that swept this country in 1968 is fast becoming Trudeaphobia, and it is time we brought it to a stop.

**Mr. John Burton (Regina East):** Mr. Speaker, I think the evidence that has been presented to members of this House in the past few days, and over the past several months in particular, demonstrates a total failure on the part of the government to deal with the problems facing the Canadian economy. I feel that the actions taken by the Liberal government can be summed up by placing them in three general categories. We have seen examples of gross mismanagement, of poor or bad judgment, and a lack of courage in dealing with Canada's economic problems.

If I may turn to each of these three categories in turn, one example of mismanagement that comes readily to mind has to do with the student summer employment program announced by the government not long ago. I find it very interesting to note the comments of some of the officials who say they feel we are doing reasonably