

The Budget—Mr. Chevrier

predecessor, Hon. Mr. Marler, and in part put into effect before this government ever took office. It boils down to the old story which the Minister of Transport expressed very well the other day: "They build them, but we open them." That is about what it amounts to.

Then I come to another statement of the Prime Minister. He had been talking about unemployment in Canada and then he moved on to talk about unemployment in the United States. He said:

Indeed, unemployment in Canada has been less in comparative terms than in the United States.

That statement is also untrue, and I intend to dispute it. I have here a statement which I have prepared and which is taken from the Canadian Statistical Review of December, 1960, and the survey of current business, United States department of commerce, December 1960, which indicate that at no time in the 11 months under consideration has the unemployment situation in the United States been worse than in Canada. On the contrary, it is just the reverse.

I would now like to put on *Hansard*, with the permission of the house, a statement entitled "Unemployment as the percentage of the labour force, seasonally adjusted, 1960", comparing the conditions in Canada with those of the United States, taken from the Canadian Statistical Review, December 1960, page S-3, and the survey of current business, December 1960, page S-11. This survey will indicate that for the first 11 months of 1960—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I understand that the hon. member requests leave from the house to have this table printed in *Hansard* at this point. Does the house agree?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[*Editor's note: The table referred to is as follows:*]

Unemployment as a % of labour force
Seasonally adjusted
1960

	Canada*	United States†
January	6.1	5.2
February	6.5	4.8
March	6.6	5.4
April	6.8	5.0
May	7.2	4.9
June	6.6	5.5
July	7.1	5.4
August	7.6	5.9
September	7.2	5.7
October	7.6	6.4
November	7.5	6.3

*Canadian Statistical Review, December 1960, page S-3.

†Survey of Current Business, December 1960, page S-11.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): There could, of course, be no objection to the hon. member putting on record any statement taken from

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any official Canadian government source. But so far as he is attempting to draw a comparison with figures—

Mr. Martin (Essex East): The minister has no right to make a speech.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I have a right to indicate whether consent may be given to the portion of those figures being put on the record which are not from Canadian government sources but from United States government sources. I think the house should know a great deal more about the basis of comparison because the statement made by the hon. member is not in accordance with statements which have come from the United States in the last 48 hours. As I say, I have no objection to the hon. gentleman putting on the record any figures from Canadian government sources.

Mr. Chevrier: Since the minister has no objection and since I have shown whence the figures come, I simply want to indicate that these figures show that for the first 11 months of 1960 unemployment as a percentage of the labour force, after allowing for seasonal factors, averaged less than 5 per cent in the United States and that during the comparable period Canada's unemployment averaged 7 per cent of the labour force.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): No.

Mr. Chevrier: At no time during 1960 did the United States have as much unemployment in terms of its labour force as did Canada.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): May I ask the hon. gentleman a question? Is he saying that he has Canadian government figures which show the average unemployment in the first 11 months of 1960 to be 7 per cent of the labour force of Canada? There are no government figures which show that difference.

Mr. Chevrier: The government figures are here, taken from the Canadian Statistical Review, and during a comparable period they indicate that for the first 11 months Canada's unemployment averaged 7 per cent of the labour force. That is clearly what these figures say; that is what they indicate. In December, 1960, 8.2 per cent of our labour force was unemployed, or 528,000 people. It is true employment has increased over the 12-month period by 1.3 per cent, but nevertheless unemployment in December, 1960 is 30 per cent higher than it was a year ago.

Then we pass on to some more of these extraordinary statements made by the Prime Minister (Mr. Diefenbaker). Toward the end of his speech he complained very bitterly about those who exaggerate the problems