

Anti-Inflation Policies

guage. He should go to his constituency and talk to the 7 per cent who are unemployed there.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member should address himself to the Chair.

Mr. Coates: Mr. Speaker, I am quite willing to address myself to the Chair if the hon. member for Burnaby-Seymour will do the same. I shall abide by the rules, but I do not intend to take orders from him. I have been in this House a lot longer than he, and at the rate he is going I will be here a lot longer still. If the government which he supports continues its policies, I tell him there will be a great many changes when the next election comes around and many colleagues of the hon. member for Burnaby-Seymour will not be back, including the Minister of Finance from Kingston.

The Minister of Finance will not have a problem because even under the old pension plan he had more than \$30 a week and he says that anybody in Canada can get along on \$30 a week. Of course, he also has four or five television sets and he could always sell one in order to buy groceries. The sad fact is that my constituents do not have four or five television sets and many of them do not have \$30 a week to live on. The way this government is carrying on, I am afraid a great many more people will not have \$30 a week to live on.

Propositions have been put forward to this government time and time again by opposition members in respect of ways and means to eliminate the problems of regional economic disparity and chronic unemployment. The Prince Edward Island causeway would have generated both employment and tremendous benefits for all the people of the Atlantic area. But what has happened? The answer has been "No" in respect of the Prince Edward Island causeway. That was the answer after many millions of dollars had been spent by this government.

The Bay of Fundy tides could have been harnessed. Projects of similar magnitude have been undertaken in other areas of this nation. But when it came to the proposition of undertaking this project in the Atlantic provinces the answer was "No" to the people of that area. This project would have produced lasting power. It would have produced a legacy for this nation and not just for the Atlantic provinces. There would have been employment and a better life for the people of the

[Mr. Coates.]

Atlantic provinces. However, this government and the Prime Minister said "No".

This government says "No" to everybody in this nation. Time and time again proposals have been put forward but the answer is always the same in respect of agriculture, shipbuilding and everything else. This government continues to say "No". It is the only word in its vocabulary. It is the only word Canadians hear, except for one thing—higher taxes. The government says "Yes" every time higher taxes are mentioned.

The government says to the people of Atlantic Canada that the economists who live in their ivory towers in Ottawa will produce special programs that are incapable of being carried out, such as the development program that has been proposed for the people of Prince Edward Island. The economy of Prince Edward Island just cannot undertake the type of program this government has proposed. Indeed, if it endeavoured to do so it would be so far in debt that it would be in a worse position than the government of Newfoundland, yet the government of that province continues to go forward.

Let us face the facts. We have a Liberal government in Newfoundland, we have a Liberal government in New Brunswick, we have a Liberal government in Prince Edward Island and we have a Conservative government in Nova Scotia. When we compare the unemployment figures of the four provinces we find that in Newfoundland it is 15.3 per cent of the labour force, in New Brunswick it is 11.8 per cent, in Prince Edward Island it is 9.7 per cent, and in Nova Scotia it is 7.7 per cent. This shows the difference between a concerned and capable government and three incompetent governments which have been in office too long. In a very short time there will be just two Liberal governments in the Atlantic provinces, because the people of Prince Edward Island will show this government what they think of the development program for that province. I do not live in Prince Edward Island but I do know that much. This government does not face up to the problems of unemployment. Indeed, I cannot see where it faces up to the problem of inflation, because while it is creating unemployment all over the nation inflation continues to spiral upward.

• (9:40 p.m.)

Now we have the worst of two worlds, and unfortunately for the people of Canada we will have to live with it for another two