

*The Address—Hon. Paul Martin*

of the Iron Ore Company of Canada was reported to have made the following statement, and I quote from the *St. John's Telegram* of that date:

—Claude E. Howse disclosed Tuesday that the Dominion Steel and Coal Corporation in Sydney, Nova Scotia, is using more iron ore from the Carol (Labrador) project of his company than from Dosco's own mines on Bell island.

That is very difficult to understand in view of the difficulties we are facing at Wabana, where some 700 Dosco employees are now to be laid off. The president of the steel workers' union at Wabana, when asked to comment on this statement by the representative of the Iron Ore Company of Canada, said that were Dosco to use 100 per cent Wabana ore at their Sydney operation, as they did in the past, it would mean an extra 300,000 tons of production for the Wabana operation. However, as we have noted before, Dosco apparently are not interested in the future of employees who have been loyal to them in the past. Their first loyalty is paying a handsome dividend to their shareholders. It is estimated that 60 per cent of the requirements of the steel plant at Sydney come from the Iron Ore Company of Canada's mines in Labrador.

As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, as recorded at page 885 of *Hansard* for February 15, the Minister of Labour replied to a question I put him in reference to this fact, and I quote from part of the minister's statement:

The root of the Wabana mines difficulties appears to lie in loss of European markets and increased use of ore from Labrador by the Dosco plant at Sydney.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. I regret to interrupt the hon. member, but his time has expired.

**Mr. McGrath:** I was not aware of the fact that my time had expired. However, if the house will bear with me I will not take up more than an extra 10 minutes of its time.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Does the house give unanimous consent so that the hon. member may continue for another 10 minutes?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I think since the time of hon. members is limited, and since the rigid limitation has been observed by every other hon. member it would be a dangerous precedent.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** I am sorry; there does not appear to be unanimous consent, so I must call on the next speaker.

**Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East):** Last Tuesday I sought to adjourn the house to discuss a matter of urgent and national importance. That day the Department of Labour and the dominion bureau of statistics had provided us

with their monthly release showing the employment and unemployment figures in Canada, for the week ending January 13, 1962. Mr. Speaker decided that under our rules I had not made out a case for the motion and that there would be a presumed opportunity during the course of the present session of parliament to debate this matter. Mr. Speaker's expectations have proven correct. That opportunity is now open to me.

We would not be fulfilling our duty in this house if we did not consider the alarming character of the release of last Tuesday; and although we shall run the risk of incurring the displeasure of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance when we discuss matters not of their liking, and although we shall once again be charged with being prophets of gloom, it is the responsibility and duty of an opposition, as well as of every hon. member in the house, to examine this continuing serious situation which we have had in Canada almost from the day this government took over from the previous government.

It is important for us to recall some of the salient features of the report of last Tuesday. This report indicated that employment decreased seasonally between the months of December and January, and that the estimated labour force in January was only 13,000 higher than a year earlier. This is a clear indication of the fact that our economic growth has slowed down considerably. I shall have more to say about this, but it is one of the revelations contained in the recent release.

It is further pointed out that employment declined by 218,000 to 5,864,000 between December and January, and we are told that some 476,000 of the unemployed in January were men. It is significant that in the month of January there were 545,000 people on the unemployed list in Canada, and of this number some 476,000 were men and of these 132,000 were under the age of 25 years. The release also showed that there were an estimated 69,000 women unemployed in the month of January and that 35,000 of these were under the age of 25 years. All this indicates the serious unemployment problem which exists and that has a bearing on those who are under 30 years of age. I shall have more to say about this.

In every region of Canada employment declined during the last reported period, notwithstanding the speech made last night in Montreal by the Minister of Labour and notwithstanding the prognostications and assessments of the situation made by the Minister of Finance. Employment in the Atlantic region declined by an estimated 42,000 between December and January. Unemployment in January was 14.7 per cent of the labour force, compared with 14.9 per cent