Anti-Inflation Policies

It is expected that this will happen in less than a generation.

The purpose of reducing continually the number of working hours is to enable the highest possible number of workers to find employment since it has been found that machines, automation and cybernetics make it ever easier to produce.

One will recall that barely a hundred years ago, at the time the internal combustion engine revolutionized industry, mechanical power replaced physical strength.

About 20 years ago, automation appeared and there was another industrial revolution greater than the previous one. Now today, cybernetics is at our disposal.

In 1964, Robert Cooney said the following about unemployment, and I quote:

While we urge young people to get degrees, technicians devise office machines that will make unemployed people out of those young graduates when they leave the university.

While the retraining of technicians displaced by the introduction of a machine doing their work is proceeded with, a new machine is being devised that will make the retraining as outmoded for those unfortunate people as the old techniques that had become useless to them.

—unemployed educated people are being added to unemployed uneducated people.

Mr. Speaker, that reminds me that in 1960-61-62, we were told that if there were so many unemployed people in Canada, it was because those people were uneducated.

Yet, on March 19 last, the JOC pointed out that in the Province of Quebec alone, out of a total of 200,000 unemployed Quebecers, 57,000 were in the 16 to 24 age group. Yet one cannot say, that those young people are uneducated. They all have to attend schools and universities but we realize that once they leave such institutions, there is no job for them. Therefore we are now confronted with educated unemployed. There is now another excerpt from Mr. Cooney's article and I quote:

We have now come to the point where the machine has become a substitute not only for man but also for the former, less sophisticated machine. Furthermore, the machine is now manufacturing other machines.

I cannot see any production problem in anything happening now. In his book "The American Challenge", at pages 93 and 94, Servan-Schreiber describes what is occurring now. This book was written three years ago but Servan-Schreiber was forecasting the things that would happen in 1980 and, which in fact, are just beginning to happen. Here is what Servan-Schreiber has to say in his book:

● (4:00 p.m.)

Well before 1980, computers will be small, powerful, and inexpensive. Computing power will be available to anyone who needs it, or wants it, or can use it.

In many cases the user will have a small personal console connected to a large, central computing facility where enormous electronic memories will store all aspects of knowledge. Corresponding developments in man-machine interaction will make it as easy to learn to use the new computers as to learn to drive a car.

The more exciting developments in information processing are based on "real-time" computer use. In these uses, the computer memory and processor are large enough to handle within seconds a variety of jobs, without needing to call for additional information from a non-computer store, such as punched cards. There is in these cases potential opportunity for the human operator to interact with the computer at a speed not too different from person-to-person conversation.

It is estimated that the entire store of information in the world's libraries amounts to 10^{15} (one quadrillion, or one million billion) bits. This information is stored in the form of books and other printed documents, and is doubling every 15 to 20 years.

A leading computer manufacturer has recently announced the commercial availability of a new type—

These predictions have now come true.

—of direct-access computer memory that will hold a thousand billion bits, or one thousandth of the world's recorded information. There appears the possibility that by 1980 a small number of computers will replace all the written documentation existing in the world, and that they will work in "real time"—replying to questions with information at the speed of human conversation.

Well, such are the advances of technology which make it possible to almost instantly disseminate information throughout the world. In the face of such development, I wonder where the problem of production comes in. If it has become so easy to exchange information and to produce, why do we try to solve the problem of production when it is non-existent?

Instead of subsidizing production at the executive level, the government should distribute more purchasing power to the people. While the Prime Minister suggests credit restraints in order to reduce prices, his colleague, the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Marchand) grants subsidies right and left in order to create new industries, thus contributing to increase production. Both approaches are contradictory.