

*Economic Growth and Employment Situation*

looking for jobs. Those people are not being fooled nor are their families, some of whom will probably go to bed hungry tonight.

The more we reflect upon what is happening in Canada, Mr. Speaker, the more we realize what a strange twist fate has taken with regard to this government. The Prime Minister and his colleagues campaigned vigorously in 1968 on the promise of a just society and an end to regional disparity. It is strange indeed that a government which campaigned on these promises should have taken the opposite course.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Equal poverty for all!

**Mr. Carter:** It has taken off in the opposite direction. It is a known fact to all but the Liberals, who are unwilling to admit to anything which might reflect on their leader or their party, that the economy is amiss. This government finds itself in a tailspin from which it is impossible to recover. In light of the arrogance and the stupid determination of the Minister of Finance and his leader to create unemployment in order to battle inflation, and in light of the consequent suffering and misery of a large number of Canadians through illogical and insane policies, I feel that the minister would do the Canadian public a great favour if he would offer his resignation.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Carter:** As a matter of fact, I will go a step farther and make the same suggestion to the government and to the Prime Minister. If they have any sense of decency left, or any concern for the plight of the Canadian people, they should step down and let somebody else fill the breach—

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Pepin:** Who could that be?

**Mr. Stanfield:** That's what they asked in 1957.

**Mr. Carter:** —and let them do the job of which the government is obviously incapable.

**An hon. Member:** Don't worry McBride; you won't get the chance.

**Mr. Carter:** Mr. Speaker, this government and its leaders are bluffing themselves. They are being dishonest with themselves, with the Canadian people and with the House of Commons.

**Mr. Paproski:** Shame!

**Mr. Carter:** I represent a part of Canada known as an economically depressed area, one of the have-not provinces of this nation. Today we have reported unemployment of 15.2 per cent and I would suggest that at least another 5 per cent could be added to that figure because of the way this government has been juggling and gerrymandering the figures to cover their mistakes. It is impossible to take the figure given by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics without a grain of salt, so I say that although my province is reported to have 15.2 per cent

[Mr. Carter.]

unemployment I think it is reasonably safe to say it is probably closer to 20 or 22 per cent.

This is a sad commentary on a nation supposed to have one of the highest standards of living in the world. It is also a sad reflection on a government that campaigned on and boasted of its desire and ability to give a just society to all Canadians and to end regional disparity. The unfortunate thing is that the people being hurt by these policies are the poor, the average man, the man who earns a living with his hands and eats his lunch from a lunch-basket instead of some posh restaurant. The fishermen, the miners, the factory workers, farmers and the ordinary man on the street suffer from this government's illogical and insane policy.

I contend that if the Minister of Finance and his colleagues have any concern left for the Canadian people they should tender their resignations and let somebody take over who can do the job.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

● (3:40 p.m.)

**Mr. Arnold Peters (Timiskaming):** Mr. Speaker, I was interested to hear the Minister without Portfolio in charge of kids outline his summer program for students. I have read all the stuff he has put forward and, frankly, do not understand it. I am not sure how one would go about applying for these benefits: I am expected to tell the young people and I am not sure myself how to go about it. Having listened to the minister say that there is to be set up another cabinet committee, that people will be hired to undertake studies, that agencies will be set up and that eventually they will tell us how to go about filling out forms, and so on, it looks as though we are making this a long-term project and that the kids will be drawing their old age pensions before we solve the problem.

Would it not be nice—if the government is really interested in cleaning up the environment—if it permitted the young people, in conjunction with municipalities all over the country, to undertake clean-up projects? I am not prepared to say what those projects should be. What about cleaning up the Ottawa River? Surely we could allow the kids to clean up the Rideau and Ottawa Rivers. That would give them something to do. They could pump it out, dig it out or shovel it out. The way things are going, pretty soon we will be able to shovel out the Rideau River anyway.

Surely we could help our students to work in conjunction with the municipalities and do something constructive and worth while. Not long ago I asked the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Greene), who has some responsibility in this area, what a certain committee set up several years ago to deal with this matter had done. He was not sure what committee I meant and did not know what it had done. I was referring to an agreement between Quebec and Ontario regarding the Ottawa River.

Several years ago a bunch of young people came to my office. One of them was the daughter of a deputy