

Alleged Failure to Reduce Unemployment
point out to him as well as to the other members that the time of the minister has already been up for several minutes.

If the house agrees—

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Latulippe: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The minister indicated that an increase in productivity in Canada would solve the problem. Now, we have had increases in production since—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order. The house authorized the hon. member to put a question, but not to make a speech.

Mr. Latulippe: I do wish to put a question, Mr. Speaker.

I am going to refer to the statistics for 1968. Canadian production was valued at \$68 billion. We have—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order. Would the hon. member put his question?

Mr. Latulippe: Here is my question, Mr. Speaker. One must use certain words to put a question.

Our production was valued at \$68 billion and consumption at \$40 billion. Who got the \$28 billion difference? That is what I would like to know.

Mr. Mackasey: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member received an indemnity of \$18,000, which, of course, is paid out of the citizens taxes and, just like me, he benefited from that amount. Moreover, he is a business man, he operates several businesses, and he no doubt benefited from the prosperity in his riding.

[*English*]

Mr. Cliff Downey (Battle River): It is my purpose today, Mr. Speaker, to bring to the attention of the house and the country the tragic gap between performance and practice of which this government has been guilty. The Minister of Labour (Mr. Mackasey) has given some statistics on unemployment, both past and present. In view of the continually changing circumstances in this country, Mr. Speaker, if the minister derives any comfort from these statistics then he deserves less credit than members of the opposition give to him.

The hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis) stated that neither the Liberal or Conservative parties, did much to alleviate unemployment. Under the hon. member's concept of democracy, the government would become

[*The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard).*]

the prime employer. It would seem the government is rapidly trying to become a prime employer when you look at the increase in departmental staffs. I would ask the people of the nation to judge for themselves if this is the best way. We all have to acknowledge the fact that there are countries with very little employment, but how many people in Canada would trade places with the average person in China?

I recall, as we all do, the bright, sparkling days of kissing and high-diving, of grappling with the nation's problems which characterized the first few months of the present regime—

Some hon. Members: Those were the days.

Mr. Downey: —to the point where the incompetence of the Pearson government was almost forgotten. Except for a few changes, the governments boasts the same personnel as the previous government and I might add is still committing the same blunders.

We are in the degrading position where in the midst of a drifting economy, sky high taxes, falling grain sales, confusion about priorities, rapidly increasing unemployment, unconscionable interest rates, the only matter which seems to impinge upon the Prime Minister's (Mr. Trudeau) euphoria is the way in which the Prime Minister's private life is covered in the press. This is hardly a matter of national concern, nor will its resolution do much to assist Canadians.

Does the Prime Minister know that in this country there is a growing number without work? Does he know that there are Canadians ill-fed, badly housed and improperly cared for? Does he have any concern about the pensioner and the aged, whose paltry income is eaten away by government-created inflation? Does he care about the small businessman or the farmer whose modest competence now becomes a prey for the tax gatherers, as a result of the most iniquitous legislation ever presented in a legislative assembly? I refer to the succession duty tax.

The private life of the Prime Minister, however fascinating to the pundits, however agonizing to their perpetrator, is of no concern to the Canadian who is trying to make ends meet.

I am asking this government to come back to reality, to stop treating this nation and its problems as a stage for one man's artistic performance; to deal with real problems, rather than the fringe benefits of social misfits, such as we have been having.