

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): I am glad. Perhaps the minister will invite his colleagues to acquaint him with the contents of it.

Mr. Whelan: I have enough trouble now.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): We in this House cannot make an appropriation this year to cover expenditures for years to come and include therein provision that some of the moneys that are to be spent this year shall be forgiven this year by way of an appropriation next year. That is totally contrary to the workings of the Financial Administration Act.

I want to give the Minister of Agriculture, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Gray) and a few others a little reading lesson. I wish the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) were here. He reads beautifully. He does a real job when he reads, but sometimes those words stick around in *Hansard*. On October 8, 1968, the hon. member for Témiscamingue (Mr. Caouette) asked the Prime Minister the following question:

When does he intend to introduce his just society policy to replace the winter works policy, in view of the fact that municipalities are now in a very difficult situation?

Can the house expect an early statement from the right hon. Prime Minister in this connection?

The Prime Minister replied:

Mr. Speaker, the policy in this regard was launched before cancelling the winter works program; this the member should know.

The winter works program has been put aside. On December 13, 1968, as recorded at page 3906 of *Hansard*, my colleague, the hon. member for Egmont (Mr. MacDonald), asked the Prime Minister the following question with regard to the amendment of the winter works program:

Is the government considering a suggestion I made to the Prime Minister at the time the winter works program was abandoned, that it might be employed in areas where unemployment in the winter months reaches or surpasses 8 per cent?

The Prime Minister replied:

When we abandoned the winter works program we did so because we felt there were other ways in which to ensure prosperity.

He talked about FRED, ARDA, AIDA and things like that. The Prime Minister then stated:

These are all ways in which we try to alleviate the economic situation. Of course we do not have a system of government in which we have entire jurisdiction over the whole economic policy.

Mr. Whelan: He does read well.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): On October 5, 1970, as recorded at page 8758 of *Hansard*, the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands (Mr. Douglas) asked the Prime Minister the following question:

Since most of the unemployed will not be very fully satisfied or their hunger assuaged by lists, may I ask the Prime Minister whether the government intends to announce any specific undertakings, intends to increase the money available for housing or intends to enter into any negotiations with provincial governments regarding winter works programs, antiquated or modernized?

Supply

Just prior to that the Prime Minister had said:

Mr. Speaker, we are not reviving the antiquated methods recommended by the leader of the New Democratic Party, but there have been a whole host of measures taken over the past year and indeed in recent months.

On November 5, 1970, as recorded at page 904 of *Hansard*, the hon. member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow) asked the following question:

• (2110)

May I ask the Prime Minister whether the government is giving consideration to a winter works program supplemental to the regional development programs in order to help to alleviate some of the very substantial unemployment we have and will have this coming winter?

MR. TRUDEAU: No, Mr. Speaker. As I have pointed out before, the winter works program totalled something less than \$50 million. We have replaced it by manpower retraining and mobility programs to the tune of several hundreds of millions of dollars. It is typical of the NDP that they would want to go back to solutions which were discarded and discredited some time ago.

Then on September 28, 1971, as reported at page 8229, the hon. member for Skeena (Mr. Howard) asked the Prime Minister a question with regard to winter works. He asked:

Mr. Speaker, inasmuch as the previous municipal winter works program which was very valuable, as everyone knows, was discontinued without reference to a federal-provincial conference would the Prime Minister consider reinstating it and making an announcement about it within the next few days?

The Prime Minister replied:

I do not believe the assessment made by the hon. member that the previous program was very valuable is shared by everyone in this country, least of all by the municipalities themselves. They found that very often it was a wasteful program and asked the federal government to bring in better measures, which we did, and we have the manpower retraining program.

Yet the answer today is: Back to winter works for \$350 million. As far as the NDP is concerned, the Prime Minister says he is bringing back antiquated provisions which were discarded. I recognize that the NDP were in favour of winter works programs; everyone was until the right hon. gentleman came to power. The previous administration had brought in winter works' programs. But when the just society came in, winter works went out of the window.

Today, though—and here we must believe the words of the former minister of labour—the Prime Minister is communicating with the people and he is finding out that winter works programs are programs which the people want, programs which many of the municipalities want. The Prime Minister told us in 1971 they were wasteful programs. Are these to be wasteful programs now? Why are they being reintroduced? You see, Mr. Speaker, members opposite cannot be credible in this situation. They have carried out a complete about-turn. Of course winter works programs were helpful. They did a lot of good. All I am quoting is what the Prime Minister has been saying about them.

Mr. Whicher: Anybody is entitled to make a mistake.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!