

*Anti-Inflation Policies*

conomic Expansion (Mr. Marchand) who refuses to be fair to the Saint-Hyacinthe area and because of the opposition to progress and lack of imagination of the ministers responsible for the situation we are now facing, it was a pleasure for me to second the motion. I wanted to make a few comments anyway and take part in the debate which aims at improving the situation for those who, momentarily and often permanently, are affected by unemployment.

Unemployment can eradicate understanding within a family as well as its well-being. It creates worry and fear for the future.

It affects not only heads of families but also young people. It is a source of concern and confusion for them. On the occasion of a study made by the JOC, the national president of that organization, Mr. Henri-Paul Labonté, granted an interview to the press during which he stated, and I quote:

"The naked truth is that young people have to wait to get married because there is no work in sight for them."

"The truth is that young people are broken after six months, a year out of work. There are the "disgusted ones" in Drummondville who have nothing better to do than to play pool, to go to the tavern. They no longer look for a job. They do not feel like it any more."

And here is how he concluded his interview:

"For us...unemployment is a "bleeding hole" in our flesh, a leak draining the hope and wealth of 60,000 of us, a breach in our faith in the nation".

In my opinion, the government should take note of these remarks, which are certainly similar to those of a great number of young people, and use every possible means to stop unemployment before irreparable harm is done.

I regret the absence of several Liberal members who slip away from the House when a subject as important as unemployment is discussed here. There can be no doubt that what is going on in the province of Quebec explains why these Quebec members who should also be concerned with unemployment have chosen to go and help Mr. Bourassa who is seeking to become the Premier of Quebec. But I believe their efforts will fail, because I am confident people of Quebec will see through them.

The purpose of the present debate is not to examine the results of the election campaign being conducted in the province of Quebec, but to consider the problem of unemployment. It is a paradox, Mr. Speaker, to find that a political party which promised during

[Mr. Ricard.]

the 1968 campaign to create a "just society" throughout Canada should be the very same to take action liable to create unemployment. The people of Canada would have been justified in expecting another treatment from government members who seem to be implementing methods which can only result in depriving Canadian workers of the jobs they so badly need.

No wonder, therefore, that the Canadian people are disillusioned after being swept off their feet in the last election and for not having learned from past experience which, as the old saying goes, foreshadows the future.

Mr. Speaker, since the country needs to be developed, the government should set up programs likely to give a new impetus to the economy instead of implementing restrictive measures.

Has a government which really has the welfare of the people at heart, ever been seen to take steps with a view to slowing down development? Yet, this is what is doing in 1970 the Liberal government which has always claimed to be a saviour and a promoter of welfare, and promised heaven on earth. The present government does its best to check development. I find that very difficult to understand and I shall certainly never be able to convince government members to do something other than to follow the course they have set for themselves.

The government claims that people must be thrown out of work in order to stop inflation. That is also very difficult to understand. If the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), who was often asked to say what rate of unemployment would enable the government to maintain its present administration, had wanted to give an answer, it might be possible to explain the attitude of the government. But whenever members of the opposition have tried to obtain information on the policy of the government as regards the rate of unemployment required to check inflation, they have come up against stubborn silence and unqualifiable arrogance, all this to the detriment of the general public.

● (5:40 p.m.)

It might be interesting to know what some people have to say about the government's policy. I shall not borrow any evidence from the Conservatives, but I shall quote the words of someone who once was Secretary of State in the cabinet of the Right Hon. Lester B.