

liant than that. Is he trying to mislead the House and the people?

We have made good proposals which I submit are sound and rational. We are not saying that there should necessarily be an across the board reduction of taxes for all Canadians. We are offering a number of proposals for the government's consideration. Removing the 11 per cent sales tax on building materials alone would mean an impetus to the Canadian economy of about \$200 million. Removing the 3 per cent surtax would add about \$150 million to the economy. Also, there are at least five or six ways by which personal income tax could be reduced. Such a reduction would have a beneficial effect on the economy. Our proposals, depending on which ones and how many are adopted, would mean, an injection into the Canadian economy of between \$200 million and \$1 billion or more. They should not be ignored.

In the present circumstances we cannot, because of the time factor, develop our suggestions in any great detail. Nevertheless, we feel that our suggestions are worthwhile. If the minister is not prepared to accept the proposals of the opposition, perhaps he will be prepared to outline to the Canadian people what the government proposes to do so the Canadian people can judge how effective they will be. If the minister is not willing at present to accept the proposals of the opposition, then we challenge him to come forward now with concrete proposals. Let him advance them to the House of Commons and to the Canadian people. Let us assess their value in terms of their potential for reducing unemployment.

• (5:30 p.m.)

In summing up, in my opinion, Mr. Speaker, there is one basic need over and above everything else which is needed in this country at the present time. This need has little to do with dollars and cents, building material tax, surtax or a reduction of personal income tax. I contend that the Canadian people believe the biggest need in our country today is a change in the attitude of this government. This is more important than anything else. Even cabinet secrecy is not able to hide the fact that the government has a cold, calculated and planned approach to the economy. This message is coming through from the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Labour. It has been preached by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) throughout the years. The government is not prepared to deviate for one moment.

None of the ministers, including the Minister of Finance, has travelled around the country recently. They have not visited the bread lines. They have seen the effects on the unemployed. They are not aware of them. I cannot think of a more adequate phrase to describe the attitude of the government than that used by the Leader of the Opposition. He said the government has a mechanistic approach to the economy. This is sad. The government is not concerned about the effect this is having upon 538,000 Canadians.

I find it hard to accept the attitude of the Minister of Finance. Many Canadians, including some of my con-

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stituents, cannot believe that he has adopted this attitude. The minister appeared on television with his pipe in his mouth and stated "I would like to tell the people of Canada that 538,000 people are unemployed. There is no problem. The government is considering it. We recognized the problem last March. We are going to loan \$150 million in December." This is an unbelievable attitude.

The Leader of the Opposition said something yesterday which struck home to every member of this House and to many people outside it. He talked about the bitterness reflected in the attitude of between 3,000 and 5,000 people in the bread lines of Vancouver. This bitterness was not necessarily directed toward the Prime Minister or the government. The bitterness was toward the institutions of government and Parliament—for their inability to handle the unemployment problem in Canada. These people have given up hope; there is a tremendous amount of despair. This holds true for every province. It is even permeating the attitude of many people in the province which I consider to be the most peaceful in Canada.

A couple of years ago the Canadian people purchased what I considered to be a pig in a poke. I suppose we all made that mistake. We must accept a democratic decision. At that time Canadians were promised a just society which was to be on the platters of all Canadians for Christmas that year. Since that time there has been an apprehended insurrection in the province of Quebec. Canadians felt that the government at least took action in bringing in the War Measures Act. The fact is that the apprehended insurrection occurred during the reign of this Prime Minister. Last week Mr. Cournoyer, the Quebec Minister of Labour, stated that there is an apprehended revolution in that province. I do not know the gentleman. He must be reasonable and responsible, because he was appointed to the cabinet of that province by the Premier.

In my opinion we have had an increase in regional disparity and in taxes. I contend that also we have had an increase in separatism. There has certainly been an increase in the length of the bread line. The unemployment rate is now 6.6 per cent. It is almost one per cent higher than in the month of November. I contend that this is a planned effort on the part of the government. One minister of the Crown stated last week that we will probably have to tolerate a rate of 10 per cent unemployment in Canada.

Some hon. Members: Shame!

Mr. Lundrigan: The Minister of Finance said, "We accept that." The Minister of Labour asked what was different about unemployment in 1969, 1970 and 1971. The Prime Minister stated the government will create unemployment regardless of circumstances or results. Another minister, a real heavyweight, indicated we might have to tolerate a 10 per cent rate of unemployment in this country. The Prime Minister is misjudging the mood of the Canadian people. He is relying on experience gained while visiting some of the eastern countries in the last couple of decades. I think it is possible to plan an