

Finance (Mr. Benson) and all those caught up in this quaint, old fashioned type of economic policy.

This policy did not affect the prices established in industries that are foreign owned or of an international nature. However, it certainly reduced our growth rate and it certainly did create the highest level of unemployment in a decade. I have been informed by a private source that when the figures for September are released we will see another increase in unemployment. Unemployment in Canada in September was 6.9 per cent, which is another increase in the number of Canadians out of work, with the consequential suffering families. That is the result of a needless anti-inflation policy, a policy which would not have been initiated by a Prime Minister who really intended to do something about those laudable goals referred to in the Speech from the Throne.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member but his time has expired.

**Some hon. Members:** Continue.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Is there unanimous consent for the hon. member to continue?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Mr. Speaker, I thank hon. members and will try to conclude quickly. The other method used by the government to fight inflation was, of course, the 6 per cent guideline policy. I will be quick on this point because of the courtesy shown me by the House.

The point I want to make is that it was completely ineffective and that should be clearly known throughout the country. Again in this House the other day, the Minister of Finance referred to the efficacy of this great program. The fact is that we had settlements in the private sector up until August 1, 1970 averaging 8.5 per cent, well beyond the guideline. The way this policy did affect the working people was through the public sector, because the government could control that. The average wage settlement in the public sector up to August 1 was 5.5 per cent, below the guideline.

The postal unions, to their credit because they were a militant group, broke the guideline and got a settlement which exceeded the 6 per cent level. The point I make here is that all the verbiage which went into justifying and explaining this guideline policy—not justified in the first place—was a cover up for a program which had no effect on most Canadians but which did affect in a serious way public employees.

The President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Drury), after the postal strike, and after spending \$30 million of taxpayers' money—that is what the post office lost trying to break that strike—had the gall, and I think that is the right word in a free society, to suggest that collective bargaining was now an anachronism. Any private company would have settled this strike long before the government did because it would have seen the drain on its

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cash. The President of the Treasury Board spent, and I say this deliberately, \$30 million of the taxpayers' money in trying to break that strike.

This was not serious bargaining and that is the opinion of the working people of this country. This was part of the war against these working people. The war on inflation was not needed and not required in any way. It was fought by techniques that did not work. They have had no effect, quite contrary to what the government suggests. The reduction in prices I suggest is due to quite different causes.

I should like to draw these observations to a conclusion by suggesting there is no good reason at all for the people in Canada to take seriously the laudable objectives stated in the Speech from the Throne. This is true if we use as a test, and it is the only test available, the record of this government for the past two years. We have seen it in respect of housing, the manpower retraining programs, the proposals for taxation, and in the government's vicious anti-labour campaign. We have seen an attitude on the part of this government not designed in any way to cohere with what should be the ultimate objective of a democratic government; that is, to use political power for the benefit of the average and the poor. There is no reason to expect a change. Therefore, I suggest that in the days and months ahead the Liberal backbenchers of this government should talk to their Prime Minister. They should say to him, get away from your tough minded speeches, get away from your merely colourful existence and start doing something about the well-being of the average Canadian.

● (5:20 p.m.)

[*Translation*]

**Mr. André Fortin (Lothinière):** Mr. Speaker, with my first words at the beginning of the 3rd session of the 28th Parliament, I want to offer you my respectful greetings and assure the Chair of the constant co-operation of the Ralliement Créditiste.

Secondly, I take this opportunity to congratulate, as is customary, the movers of the Address in reply to the Throne Speech (Mr. Trudel and Mr. Douglas).

Mr. Speaker, in the Throne Speech, the Liberal government has presented the general program of the 3rd session, which comprises about 68 various bills. They also announce the publication of White Papers on communications, citizenship, immigration, national defence and income security.

As several other members said, it will be difficult to assess the various bills sponsored by the government before we know their content. But even now, basing our judgment on the experience of the two previous sessions, we can imagine the spirit and the great principles which will guide this government.

In short, it is nothing new; it is nothing more or less than the repetition of an old slogan never carried out, that of the just society and, in this connection here is