

*Anti-Inflation Policies*

I would have liked to say a few words with regard to the remarks of the previous speaker, but I have other comments to make. However, may I say to the previous speaker, through Your Honour: Ben, get down to earth. Get with the ordinary people. Get out of your ivory tower. Don't let yourself be swayed by academics, fuzzy-wuzzies and the professorial types who surround you. You think everything is fine. You think that all is well in God's heaven and on God's earth.

**An hon. Member:** They even write his speeches.

**Mr. Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys):** I didn't say that. You have gained the impression that everything is great, that the increase in unemployment is only moderate.

**An hon. Member:** You can live on \$30 a week.

**Mr. Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys):** Unfortunately, the minister still feels that anyone in Canada can live on \$30 a week. I suggest he tell some of these stories to those unemployed people who cannot get a job and are finding it most difficult to support their families. Many members receive letters daily from the unemployed regarding their problems. I do not intend to go into great detail to reply to the drivel just spouted by the minister. There are others in our party and the NDP who will have no difficulty whatsoever refuting what the minister has said.

The degree of the heartlessness of this government is best exemplified by an article that appeared in the *Halifax Chronicle-Herald* on Thursday, April 23 which contained unemployment figures, province by province, for the Atlantic region. The unemployment figure in Newfoundland stood at 15.3 per cent of the labour force. This would be a shocking rate of unemployment for an under developed nation. However it is the rate of unemployment in a province of Canada that has a Prime Minister who based his drive to the leadership of the Liberal party and the election campaign that followed, on regional economic disparity and the elimination of same. This indicates the degree of gross incompetence of the government in its handling of national affairs.

Last week the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Marchand) said in Toronto that regional economic disparity is the number one problem facing this nation. He finally wakened and found out what the

problem was. The Prime Minister told us that in 1968. Then, he undertook a campaign to create unemployment in all areas of this country, including those facing regional economic disparity. The end result is unemployment, hardship, misery and heartache, coupled with frustration for the people who live in the underprivileged areas of this nation. Now, roughly two years after the general election, the government has discovered that its heartlessness has neither solved the problem of inflation nor the gut problem of chronic unemployment. What we find instead of the elimination of regional economic disparity is a more severe degree of unemployment in certain areas of this nation than has ever been the case before.

This government has discovered its policies to be disastrous and devastatingly damaging to the labour force of this nation. There is no good news in Ottawa. There has been no good news in Ottawa for the working men of this country. The President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Drury) grins and smiles. He had a lot of good things for the Lapalme employees and for the other union people of this country. This shows what he would do if he had full sway in this country as far as the working people and the unions are concerned. He sits and smiles. He sneers. He has probably never been unemployed and probably does not know what it is to pound the streets looking for employment.

The Prime Minister has proven himself to be a calloused, heartless and disinterested observer of the plight of the working man. No man holding the office of Prime Minister has been willing to say "no" to the working man as quickly and as often as this Prime Minister, the great friend of labour. Where is the just society? It has gone out the window. When speaking at Carleton University a few weeks ago he said, hush, hush, let's forget about it. Don't mention it again. It is to be put away until he finds a new slogan or cliché for another election. It has been long forgotten by this over-fifty swinger.

An unemployment rate of 15.3 per cent in Newfoundland means that some of the areas of that province must be suffering from a degree of unemployment that will exceed 25 per cent of the labour force. This is the Canada of today under this Prime Minister. This is the Canada two years after the just society became the hallmark of the Trudeau administration. This is the Canada of participatory democracy—the Prime Minister coined that phrase; actually he stole it from an