

Alleged Failure to Improve Economy

an issue to debate. He also seems to believe that the opposition in some way has created unemployment because we need something to debate. It displays a cynicism that is characteristic of members opposite who say that is why we are debating unemployment.

An hon. Member: Come on!

Mr. Saltsman: The three quarters of a million people who are out of work were not put out of work because of the actions of the opposition. They were put out of work by the deliberate policy of this government. The hon. member feels there will not be any issues to handle once the Liberal Party solves the problem of unemployment. After all, the Lord giveth and the Lord can take away: the government created unemployment and they think they can solve the problem. The government is not going to do that. I do not see any evidence that they will. I suggest that if they do solve the problem, with their ability to do stupid things they will create enough issues so that the opposition will not have to worry about subjects to debate in this House.

I do not know what members opposite expect of members of the opposition. Do they want us to go around patting their little heads, telling them what good boys they are and that the unemployment they have created is a very satisfactory way of running this country? Do they want us to congratulate them on the human misery they have intentionally created in our society?

Mr. Hogarth: If you say we are good, we must be bad.

Mr. Saltsman: Socialists do not believe in generic evil. We like to think that because of the environment and association which members opposite have and the way they are huddled together, by reinforcing each other they come to the same sad conclusions.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Saltsman: If members opposite will contain themselves, perhaps we can help them. We believe they should improve their environment. If they are open-minded, they may be able to learn something. We even have hope for them.

An hon. Member: They cannot learn anything.

Mr. Saltsman: Don't be too hard on them. They are not all bad—just most of them. Perhaps they want us to congratulate them on having created the slowest rate of growth of any industrial society in the world.

An hon. Member: Oh, oh!

Mr. Saltsman: The hon. member says, "Oh, oh". It happens to be a fact. It is true. This country has the lowest per capita growth of any industrialized society in the world. When we look at the endowments of nature and the potential riches of our society, we wonder how even a Liberal government could have destroyed this country as effectively as they have. This country has some of the world's richest resources, finest farms and an educated population. The government has tried hard to

[Mr. Saltsman.]

wreck the economy. The government should be given "A" for effort, because they have tried hard. Their efforts have met with considerable success: we have the highest level of unemployment in the western world.

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): You sound happy about it.

Mr. Saltsman: I am not happy about it, and I am not happy to see you sitting there. In the course of the debate, the hon. member for Burnaby-Seymour (Mr. Perreault) interjected "What about Sweden, when talking about inflation? After all, Sweden has the highest rate of inflation." The hon. member is correct but, like everything else he does, he only looks at the big print and not at the explanation below. The fact is that the rate of unemployment in that country has never exceeded 1 per cent. Sweden has a harsher climate than our own, and less resources. The rate of unemployment may be somewhat higher this year, but this has not been the case throughout history. They have not paid the price that we have had to pay for unemployment.

Mr. Gibson: You pay \$5 for breakfast over there.

Mr. Saltsman: Members opposite seem to be very anxious to take part in the debate as long as they do not have to stand and be recognized. They slumped in their seats after the hon. member for Trinity (Mr. Hellyer) finished dragging them over the coals for their policy.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Saltsman: I will be very interested to hear their brilliant points and magnificent repartee when their turn comes to speak. I would like to hear them speak on their feet rather than from their seat. Perhaps they do not think as well on their feet; they need communication through their seat. I will try to understand the situation. Members opposite are always terribly pained when criticized. The lovely angels over there get a hurt expression on their faces and ask, "How can opposition members say such things about nice people like us?"

I suspect that members opposite think they should be congratulated for the loss of dignity the working men of this country are encountering and the frustration they feel when standing in line at Manpower offices which have no jobs available. As a result, they have to go on welfare. The municipalities are in a desperate situation, yet government members think they have done a good thing. They pride themselves on introducing a training program for students.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Saltsman: Why are you congratulating yourselves? You put them out of work in the first place. You threw them out of work and you have no jobs for them.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member might give some thought to addressing the Chair.

Mr. Saltsman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The temptation is very great but I will try to resist it. I appreciate the direction from the Chair in this matter, although Your Honour must admit there was extreme provocation