

The Budget—Mr. Pitman

twentieth century? Have we indeed reverted to the 1930's belief that government cannot really do very much? If we accept as a slogan, at least on the government side, that prosperity is just around the corner, that all we have to do is to bolster confidence in the status quo, "Prosperity is just around the corner" might be called the slogan of the Hoover administration and perhaps the epitaph of the present administration.

We have been told that full employment is some kind of Elysian field, that Canadians are to be deprived from entering into it at least on this side of the grave, and Canadians have no right to expect that the government can provide full employment. Let us look a little bit further than the North American continent. Let us look at Norway, where in the 1930's there was 38.9 per cent of the working force idle, but today Norway accepts full employment as the basis of its economic system. It is quite clear that it is the duty of the state to ensure that full employment be obtained.

If you want to search in other directions, look at the commonwealth countries. In New Zealand—

Mr. Horner (Acadia): Look at Saskatchewan.

Mr. Pitman: Look at the full employment in New Zealand since 1957. There full employment is looked upon as the basis of national economy.

In Canada we expect to be erecting a model of democracy. Indeed our system of unemployment insurance gave us to believe that we did have some security in the area of employment. But instead of providing insurance for the unemployed we should have put more imagination into providing full employment. Unemployment insurance, indeed, only works properly in Canada under a full employment system. So today we have the irony that whereas other nations see their gross national product going up 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or even 10 per cent, ours is lagging at 2 per cent. Indeed when related to the population growth it is going down and has not increased during the last three years.

While other nations expand and grow, Canada has paid out \$415 million in unemployment relief; we are paying out millions of dollars in local welfare; we are losing millions of dollars in revenue in unpaid income taxes; we are losing millions of dollars in revenue in unpaid municipal taxes, and we are losing billions of dollars in productivity. What does all this capital produce? It produces nothing. It simply allows men to subsist rather than serve the community.

Mr. Horner (Acadia): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the hon. member would permit a question.

Mr. Pitman: I certainly would.

Mr. Horner (Acadia): Has the hon. member figured out what Saskatchewan has lost in terms of at least the population that has left that province because of the socialist-type government's failure to create jobs in that province?

Mr. Pitman: Yes, I read the article in the *Globe and Mail* this morning.

Mr. Horner (Acadia): I am not referring to the article in the *Globe and Mail*. I asked you a question.

Mr. Pitman: I think if the hon. member would look at the situation in Saskatchewan he might well find the reasons for this change.

Mr. Horner (Acadia): I was born and raised in Saskatchewan.

An hon. Member: We can't help it.

Mr. Pitman: Indeed, I think the economy has done very well in certain of its sectors.

Mr. Horner (Acadia): And half of the citizens of Alberta were born and raised in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Pitman: The government has indicated that today there are more people at work than ever before. I suggest, rather, that there are more people in mental hospitals and more in jails as well.

Mr. Horner (Acadia): They have to go to Alberta to find work.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. May I remind hon. members that they cannot interrupt the member who has the floor unless they have obtained prior permission to do so.

Mr. Pitman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sure the government will not wish to take the responsibility for this. But what we are really saying is that there are simply more people who need employment. Many of us on this side of the house looked to the Minister of Finance to reverse this trend. We looked to the ministry as a whole over the last three months to come forth with solutions. In many cases I think they have made an attempt to reverse this situation. I speak particularly of the legislation with regard to loans to small businesses.

Here indeed something has been done which has benefited certainly the Peterborough area. I am hoping that when the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Hamilton) brings down his legislation it will deal dynamically with that sector of our economy as well, because perhaps one of the things we have forgotten is that farm income has been going