

Economic Policies and Unemployment

ble for it. However, its policy and its attitudes are directly responsible for increased unemployment.

I mentioned a few causes of unemployment a while ago and I wish to repeat them, since the government seems deaf to warnings and information coming from all sources in that connection. Credit restrictions, high interest rates, shortage of capital due to the publication of the white paper, the recommendations of that white paper, strikes which are unfortunately unavoidable due to pressures on the industries, the flight of foreign capital, since there is distrust towards the present Canadian administration, the slowing down in the construction field, the 11 per cent tax on building materials, the unrealistic and unconsidered attitudes of the central government, its steady refusal to acknowledge that its economic policies were misguided, are all so many causes of unemployment.

Mr. Speaker, almost 95 per cent of the citizens in my riding are workers. I am aware, and several of my colleagues representing ridings like mine, are also, aware of the plague of unemployment affecting thousands of Canadian homes. I am particularly concerned by the economic deadlock in which the government has thrust the Canadian workers and taxpayers. I am growing every day more and more aware of how serious this curse has become for when I meet my fellow-citizens, they complain to me about it by the thousand.

There are bread-winners beseeching me to help them tackle their problem. In spite of all I have done myself to approach a number of authorities and industries, I simply cannot find outlets to absorb the available manpower. Several reasons are given for refusing such as that the applicant is over 40, or in other cases, a lack of education, or the fact that he is physically handicapped, and many other similar reasons. But the problem really stems from the fact that no jobs are being created and several industries have to shut down because of the present policy of the Liberal government.

Mr. Speaker, at the time of the last election, in June 1968, we read a very interesting document entitled "The Just Society". I have read in that document, already forgotten by the Liberal government, certain passages it might be well to reflect upon. For instance, I will quote one of the paragraphs of that historical document. I have that folder here. In paragraph A, entitled "The Just Society", and opposite which appears a photo of our "with
[Mr. Valade.]

it" Prime Minister, one reads the following sentence concerning the individual. It is a long statement of policy of which the leader of the Minister of Finance has made his motto. I shall quote an excerpt from it and invite the Minister of Finance to reflect upon it seriously. He said, and I quote:

The just society is the prime objective of the Liberal government.

Mr. Speaker, how can the present government speak of a "just society", when its priorities do not serve the individual but the whimsical demands of the Minister of Finance who imposed upon the Canadian people his pride instead of a realistic policy adapted to the needs of today.

Our main objective at this time is to do away with unemployment, and that is the task the present government should apply itself to, if it really wants to implement its motto of a "just society".

One could also quote other extracts from that document, all equally interesting, but so disappointing for the people who believed in such a manifesto. Under that same title "The Just Society," one can read in paragraph E, and I quote:

A better government

We want to make of the government a body which deals earnestly with the real problems of the people.

Those were the words spoken by the Prime Minister before the election, and I suppose they were endorsed by the Minister of Finance and his colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, what is the real problem in Canada at the present time? What are the priorities the government should establish if it really meant to tackle the present problem, namely unemployment? What do those pious wishes mean if the government remains blind to this disastrous situation and ignores it? And how can one hope that the people will see better days in the near future?

Mr. Speaker, that leaflet is full of similar quotations. I should like to quote another article from that leaflet entitled *The Just Society*, which enabled the government members to come to power. In paragraph A, under the heading *A Flourishing Economy*, one can read the following:

More effective management. The federal government is the first party responsible for the economic growth of this country.

Mr. Speaker, this is one more statement of policy given by the Liberal party to the people hardly two years ago and suggesting