

Economic Policy

and subsequently go on welfare, and subsequently apply for the next round of LIP, and I think that is the best and kindest description of that program I can give.

I must say there have been examples, certainly there are some in my riding, where this program has been of benefit, so I must give the department credit on that score. It is significant that when funding was announced for the fiscal year 1976-77 the allotment for the Kootenay West area was for \$279,000 and we had an increased level of unemployment. I find it strange in view of the fact that in the previous year the funding was for \$608,000. Then overnight, catching manpower officials with their collective estimates down, the minister made a crash decision to throw more dollars into the breach. He injected into Kootenay West overnight another \$329,000, and he expected the applications to be processed in two, three or four days. I wonder who put the pressure on the minister to make an assinine judgment like that? Even the job opportunities were greater at that time. I question whether all that LIP money was really needed. I wonder how many frivolous applications were subsequently sent in and funded as a result of that additional over night injection of funds. I would like to know what went on in the department that brought about that over night decision which left manpower officials in British Columbia astounded. They could not understand this kind of decision made by the minister.

After mentioning this reaction I would like to make a few comments in another area with reference to a couple of farces that have been worked on this House today, farces which give an example of the farcical nature of this government. The first one is the statement of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Macdonald) who said that today, after making his speech in the House, the opposition leader left the House. The minister devoted ten minutes of his speech to the absence of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark), in spite of the fact that the latter had given the minister prior notice of his absence in the form of an apology explaining that he had a prior and long-standing engagement. In spite of his high stature, the minister demonstrated his mental smallness and his churlish nature. He certainly abused the courtesy extended to him by the Leader of the Opposition who provided the minister with a letter of explanation. If the minister had been a gentleman, he would never have wasted the time of the House on the scurrilous comments he made.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An hon. Member: Where is the minister now?

Mr. Paproski: He has not been here all evening.

Mr. Brisco: I would remind the minister in his absence—perhaps he will read it in *Hansard* tomorrow—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Order, please. The hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Brisco) has the floor.

[Mr. Brisco.]

Mr. Brisco:—that the circumstances of unemployment overcame the events of today. There has been in the past, and doubtless there will be in the future, occasions when the Leader of the Opposition has spoken and will speak in the absence of the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau). This arrogance, which is so endemic in this government, was clearly demonstrated the other day when the Minister of Justice (Mr. Basford) read a major policy speech for the minister responsible for Langair, hot air, and Canadair.

The other farce that was worked upon this House today was the disclosure by the Conservative member for Brome-Missisquoi (Mr. Grafftey) that the Liberal member for Laurier (Mr. Leblanc) used his office and his official stationery to solicit funds for the Liberal party. What was the Liberal reaction to this shocking disclosure?

Mr. Clermont: Shocking, my—

Mr. Brisco: My what? I would like to hear from the hon. member on the Liberal side.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Order, please. Will the hon. member please address the Chair?

Mr. Portelance: On a point of order, I am surprised to hear the hon. member refer to the hon. member for Laurier (Mr. Leblanc) who is not present in the House. The hon. member gave an example of a certain minister speaking about his leader not being here. He should practise what he preaches.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Order, please. That was not a point of order. I suggest we are getting into a debate.

Mr. Brisco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will not dwell on this point much longer, but I would like to see it stated on the record that the reaction of the government to this shocking disclosure was not silence, was not shame, was not embarrassment. It was none of these, Mr. Speaker. They laughed, they hooted uproariously, they treated it as a funny joke. That laughter will haunt them in the future, like Mackenzie King's ghost, and so it should.

I should like to turn now to the band-aid patchwork solutions of the Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. Cullen) and his Canada Works program and the Young Canada Works program. Even the names of the programs are a farce. They are building false hopes by advertising a Canada Works program and a Young Canada Works program across Canada. I should like to know how much the government has spent promoting those two programs. I warrant it has spent more on advertising than on funding in Kootenay West.

● (2130)

Mr. Nystrom: With Liberal ad agencies.

Mr. Brisco: Mr. Speaker, I was enthusiastic. I thought the government would provide jobs for people in my riding, for unemployed fellow-Canadians.

Mr. Friesen: Don't hold your breath.