

*The Budget—Mr. Perrault*

Canada tonight? About 4.7. Here are the figures for the other years: 1959, 9.4 per cent; 1960, 9.6; 1961, 11.3; 1962, 9.1. In 1963, things changed because the Liberals came into power. Unemployment began to go down and the problem was beaten by the beginning of 1963, as it will be beaten again by this government. Let us have no lecture from the official opposition, remembering its monumental ineptitude when given the opportunity to reduce unemployment in Canada or to battle inflation.

The former Prime Minister from Prince Albert was not even accurate in his quotation about the just society. When was the term "just society" first used? The right hon. gentleman said it was first uttered by Mao, and his Tory friends said, "Isn't that awful? Communism!" Mr. Speaker, the term "just society" was first employed by the Chartists of England in May, 1838, and the expression which the right hon. gentleman condemned was spoken out in support of equal electoral areas, vote by ballot, annual Parliaments, payment of Members of Parliament and universal suffrage. It was not Mao who thought of it; it was part of the great British parliamentary process. The right hon. gentleman should know his history better. Thanks to Liberal governments in this country, the ideals set forth by the Chartists have come into being in Canada. Let us not distort history.

The right hon. gentleman said, in effect, "If you will just let us have power again, everything will be all right." That is what he said in January, 1959, on the floor of the House of Commons. On the subject of unemployment, he said, "I mention these things just to keep the record straight rather than have it befogged by extravagant statements made in extravagant language." Well, we have heard some extravagant language from the opposition in the past few days, but this is what the right hon. gentleman said, as reported at page 62 of *Hansard* for January 19, 1959:

• (9:10 p.m.)

I realize the situation and the seriousness of it. I realize the need of action being taken and I have pointed out the action that has been taken.

Action was taken all right; there was unemployment of 11.3 per cent.

It is one of those positions in which we find ourselves.

The government found itself in many positions in those days.

In the event that we place money into the stream and expand credit, there is an inflationary trend.

[Mr. Perrault.]

He did not possess that economic perspicacity the other night. He went on:

If we do not, we allow those who are unemployed to suffer. There is one of the major problems that economists have not been able to answer today, the unusual position with which we are faced.

Let the official opposition take the right hon. gentleman's words in 1959 to heart. The right hon. gentleman said that the situation required action on the part of all parties to solve the problem. The position is different now, is it not? There has been an unrelieved attack on the government at a time when there should be at least some degree of inter-party unity in order to battle the problem that is facing this country.

**Mr. Ricard:** You should have been here in 1960.

**Mr. Perrault:** We have inflation in Canada, and it is small comfort to the victims of this inflation to be reminded that most of the world is confronted with precisely the same challenge as that facing Canadians. The latest available data shows inflation increases for various countries. The Canadian position has been set out and described as absolutely disastrous. One member of the official opposition said the other day that Canada stands humiliated in every part of the world, which is just irresponsible overstatement. Canada's reputation is as high or higher than it has ever been.

**Mr. Hales:** Not in the United States.

**Mr. Perrault:** I challenge that statement. The following are the figures for the percentage of inflation per year in other countries; France, 6½ per cent; Japan, 6 per cent; United States, 5¾ per cent. With regard to the United Kingdom, we had a lecture in economics from our friends at the other end of the chamber today about how Socialism has all the answers to inflation and unemployment. In the U.K. the percentage is higher than ours, at 5¼ per cent. So we are not alone. This fact should not make us complacent. Indeed, it should inspire us to do better. Others are convinced that some form of fiscal or financial magic by the Canadian government can solve these problems overnight. Every night following budget night people turn on their television sets and listen to a recent graduate from one of the universities of Canada giving a definitive analysis of the budget. These people have all the answers.