

Employment of Graduate Students

● (4:40 p.m.)

Hon. members opposite did not always share the theme of his speech and at least one or two of them did not share it today. I say "at least one or two of them" because of course the hon. member for Vegreville did seem to join in this view. He criticized our training programs as a "cure all". This seems to me to be completely inconsistent with the approach taken by the hon. member for Yorkton-Melville (Mr. Nystrom) in his subsequent subamendment. I am indeed pleased for the hon. member for Vegreville that some of his colleagues from Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, his Tory friends, were not in the House to listen to him criticize this program—

Mr. Lundrigan: A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Gander-Twillingate, on a point of order.

Mr. Lundrigan: Is it within the rules for the minister to continue to perpetuate this kind of deliberate, unadulterated arrogance across the floor of this House? I wonder when the minister will get around to telling us what he is going to do about this problem. I have listened for ten minutes and I have never heard such arrogance in this House because—

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): This is known as "ragging the puck".

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker: Order. I wonder if wasting any more of the time allotted by this House to the consideration of this important resolution will get us anywhere. I suggest that the minister proceed with his remarks.

[English]

I cannot suggest to the minister that he was not dealing with the motion; I assume that he was. If he was not he might want listen to the suggestions made for his guidance by the hon. member for Gander-Twillingate.

[Translation]

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I regret to interrupt the minister once again. This time, it is the hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Fortin) who is rising on a point of order.

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Speaker, the minister would certainly help keep the debate moving if he stopped putting in our mouths words that we never said.

I would ask him, once again, to consider what is being said in this House. So as to ensure the effectiveness of this debate, let him stop snaking around trying to turn the situation to his advantage, which is dishonest.

[English]

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I think I can assure you that I have been dealing with the words and suggestions of hon.

[Mr. Lang.]

members opposite, and I will be content to have the record show the nature of this debate. I recognize from the response of hon. members opposite that they are sensitive to the references to their remarks, and to a demonstration of the inconsistencies in which they so often engage when dealing with this subject and many another.

I said that it is the basic position of the government on the main thrust of the motion, and indeed on the amendment itself, that there must be a balanced approach to expansion of the money supply and the use of monetary and fiscal policies. I also said that at the same time we must try to inspire growth in the economy. The policies which have been announced recently have been exactly in that direction of trying to move the economy forward. It seemed possible and consistent with our fight against inflation that we could expand the monetary supply and use fiscal policies in the direction of an expansionary economy.

The hon. member for Yorkton-Melville made light of our success in the fight against inflation, seeming to ignore the fact that we have been making very substantial progress in this area.

Mr. Orlikow: Tell us about unemployment.

Mr. Lang: As a result, we have found it possible to move in favour of additional fiscal and monetary measures to bring growth back to the economy.

Mr. Orlikow: Tell us about the 500,000 unemployed!

Mr. Lang: As long as we have forces calling for higher wages and higher returns for themselves—rigid forces like big labour and big business and the professions with the strength to demand more than they should be getting—we will have this delicate dilemma of balancing the growth in the economy and the control of inflation.

A consequence of attempting this balancing is of course that there are some pressures on the side of unemployment. This fact has been recognized by this government and frequently distorted by hon. members opposite both inside and outside this House. To use the words of the hon. member for Yorkton-Melville, it is distorted as a "deliberate creation of unemployment".

An hon. Member: Isn't it? Of course, it is.

Mr. Lang: That is a distortion of the situation.

An hon. Member: Ask the Prime Minister. He says we will have 6 per cent unemployment.

Mr. Lang: Coming from Saskatchewan as I do, where we know the NDP well, I am not surprised that one of the first lessons taught by them to their members is the art of distortion.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!