

Mr. Pepin: What is your policy?

Mr. Danforth: The Minister asks what our policy is. The people of Canada will find out in future months when we occupy the seats opposite. Then we will show them what our policy is.

What this country is looking for is a government which knows not only where it is today but where it wants the country to go to tomorrow. It is common knowledge that when this government came into office, the members of the government felt they not only knew all the questions facing the government but also all the answers. In their arrogance they did not accept the advice of the industrialists of this country. They did not accept the advice of the economists of this country. They did not accept the advice of the academics of this country or the people engaged in agriculture. They knew the answers.

For four years now they have made mistake after mistake after mistake, at the cost of the Canadian people. We have never had as many small businesses go bankrupt in any four-year period as we have in the last four years. Canada has never had as many farmers move off the farms in desperation in any four-year period as we have in the last four years. We have never had so many Canadians line up for welfare payments as we have in the last four years.

This government is in trouble because it has not come up with an over-all policy to solve these basic economic problems. It will not do this government any good to point to the United States and say that it is all their fault. Mr. Speaker, the people of Canada know who is responsible for our problems today. It is the men sitting on the treasury benches. It is these men who said they had the answers. They said the answer to the problems today is reform of the tax legislation.

I was very interested to hear one of my colleagues place on the record figures obtained from the Department of National Revenue because these figures did not indicate, as the government has stated, that the tax bill would take hundreds of thousands and perhaps millions of taxpayers off the tax rolls. My colleague put on record the department's own figures which show that it is perhaps in the neighbourhood of 60,000. It is this grandiose exaggeration by the government, trying to obtain plaudits from Canadians, that has got it into the trouble in which it is today. Because this government has been devious and has failed to understand what the ordinary Canadian is troubled with, it will follow its predecessor and go down to defeat.

● (1640)

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Danforth: To back up my claim that this government does not understand what is happening in Canada today, I refer to the speeches that have been put on record by representatives of the government party. I am ashamed to say that even those government members who spoke for the province of Ontario, men who should know better, said that Canadians have never had it so good. That is the tragedy in Canada today.

Speech from the Throne

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, the Speech from the Throne reads like a document that has been prepared by an aggregate of technocratic bureaucrats living in an ivory tower and completely out of touch with the workaday world occupied by the vast majority of the Canadian people. I do not think I have ever seen a government so completely complacent and self-satisfied as this one.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Douglas: Nero, fiddling while Rome burned, was a piker compared to this aggregation who fiddle while the people of Canada burn with resentment. I think the statements in the Throne Speech and the statements of various ministers all underscore this complacency and self-satisfaction. I think the most outstanding was the one made by the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Davis), in the city of Vancouver, to a well-heeled and well-dressed audience. The minister was reported by the press as saying:

There is no doubt about it, Canada's economy is in good shape... it's about time that Canadians themselves woke up to this fact.

The implication is that the people of Canada are sound asleep. The fact is it is the government that needs to wake up to the fact that the Canadian people know the economy is not in good shape. I would like the Minister of the Environment to tell the unemployed in my constituency that the economy is in good shape, or to tell that to the unemployed across Canada where 665,000 were unemployed at the end of January, almost eight out of every 100 workers. If you add to that the number who are taking manpower training, who are also unemployed but not included in the figures, the Indians who are looking for work, the married women who have retired from the labour force because they cannot get jobs, we are talking about something in the neighbourhood of over three quarters of a million people in Canada who want jobs and cannot get them.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) says that there are plenty of jobs. That is interesting, in view of the fact that the Department of Manpower and Immigration spent \$4 million doing a job survey which showed that there were 44,300 jobs available, only 38,500 of which were full-time jobs. Either the department's survey is in error and they wasted \$4 million of the taxpayers' money, or the Prime Minister does not know what he is talking about.

An hon. Member: Or both.

Mr. Douglas: The Prime Minister says that he knows there are lots of jobs because all you have to do is to read the advertisements in the newspapers. I suggest he should read the Department of Manpower's report rather than the funny papers and the classified ads section. The Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. Mackasey) himself says that unemployment will probably continue to rise in coming months, but he seeks to excuse himself by saying that the Local Initiatives Program has not reached its full capacity, that on January 15 it