

The Prime Minister has also been talking about the need to create unemployment. We have been ruled out of order when we asked questions on this statement. I am not questioning the ruling of Mr. Speaker but apparently it is difficult, even for Mr. Speaker, to accept the fact that the Prime Minister has bragged about the need to create unemployment in this country. On a CTV W-5 program back on June 28, 1970, the Prime Minister said that they were going to continue to create unemployment, that unemployment was necessary, and the Canadian people could either like it or lump it. I could not believe it, Mr. Speaker, when the Prime Minister said, "If you don't like my approach you can lump it. That is your choice. We are going to go ahead with our policies to kill inflation." This statement seems to imply that inflation is tucked away in one corner of the economy, and unemployment is to be used as a weapon to kill it.

Last evening on the national television network the Minister of Labour referred to the fact that in the winter of 1971 we were going to continue to have unemployment, that it was not new, so why should we worry about it? Why should we get all upset about the unemployment problem this year? For comparison, he used the figures for the 1958-62 period when a Conservative government was in power. As a Canadian who has not lived as long as the Minister of Labour or the Minister of Finance I tell you, Mr. Speaker, that I am not too concerned about what unemployment was like back in 1962, or what it was like back in 1932, 1933 and 1934. The fact is that the 538,000 Canadians who are unemployed, plus 100,000 who are in trade and vocational schools, plus perhaps another 100,000 who have gone out of the labour market, plus many other people who will never find their way into the statistics—and it must be remembered that these statistics are really a guesstimation of the seriousness of unemployment—are little concerned about conditions as they existed a decade ago. They are faced with a bleak, distressing problem in 1970-71.

As was mentioned by the leader of the New Democratic Party in this debate, the Minister of Labour said we need not worry because we have the dole in 1971 and we did not have the dole in 1960. That is the most disgraceful statement I have ever heard in the House of Commons from a member of the Privy Council. This afternoon the Minister of Finance is probably appearing before the television cameras in the Commonwealth Room. Perhaps he is still there. As a matter of fact, I hope he will be there for the next six or seven months, because if he stays there we may be able to do something about this problem. But, Mr. Speaker, this afternoon he was beaming and smiling as if he were attending a garden party, when in fact we are having a funeral in Canada. There he was, smoking his pipe, and telling the 538,000 unemployed, "Yes, we have a problem all right but it will go away one of these days."

The Minister of Finance, in his usual tricky way, like his Prime Ministerial friend, uses statistics to great advantage to minimize the seriousness of the problem.

**An hon. Member:** You mean cold facts.

### *The Budget—Mr. Lundrigan*

**Mr. Lundrigan:** An hon. member over in the corner refers to cold facts. I hope he gets on his feet and tells us about unemployment in his region of Canada. But, Mr. Speaker, we have members in this party who will start talking about unemployment in their regions. I will give you the facts now.

The Minister of Finance talks about seasonally adjusted figures every time the seasonally adjusted figures are convenient for him to use. I know that there are very few Canadians, including Members of Parliament, who are conversant with the seasonally adjusted figures. They are very complex statistics and very useful statistics, which have been used for the last 30 years, but if you start comparing various months you can create a tremendously false impression. For example, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance said that we have had a decline in unemployment since September because in September the seasonally adjusted unemployment figure was 6.9 per cent; in October it was 6.6 per cent; in November it was 6.5 per cent and, speaking quietly, he said it was 6.6 per cent in December. But what he did not point out was that if we go back to June, 1970, we had 6.6 per cent unemployment, seasonally adjusted, in that month.

Does that mean that there was the same amount of unemployment in June, 1970, as there was in December 1970? That is the impression the minister was trying to create. Why doesn't the minister go back to 1965 and tell Canadians that during December that year we had 3.5 per cent unemployment, seasonally adjusted; that we had 3.6 per cent in December, 1966; 4.7 per cent in December, 1967; 4.8 per cent in December 1968; 4.8 per cent in December, 1969; and 6.6 per cent in December, 1970? That is a comparison the minister did not place before the people of Canada when he spoke in the House of Commons. But, we are not worried about these seasonally adjusted figures. As the hon. member for Malpeque (Mr. MacLean) pointed out, it is little consolation to an unemployed Canadian whether he is seasonally adjusted or an actual unemployed unit if he has to go on the dole to carry his family through the winter months.

● (5:20 p.m.)

During the month of December we had 320,000 people over the age of 25 unemployed, compared with 231,000 during the same month last year. In the under 25 age group we had 218,000 unemployed, as compared with 152,000 previously. Can anyone even begin to imagine the effect on 538,000 Canadians, plus the 200,000 more Canadians who do not show up in these unemployment statistics? Can anyone imagine what the effect has been on their outlook? Can anyone imagine the psychological depression that comes from living in a community in which there is no hope for the future and the outlook for 1971 is bleak. The Prime Minister has talked about the just society for Canadians. The Prime Minister, who is at the Singapore conference, may talk about the just society but many Canadians are wondering just when the just society will be born in Canada.

Yesterday the Minister of Labour said that the Leader of the Opposition was creating a tremendous psychologi-