

4.3 of the labour force, 4.4 in Quebec, 2.5 in Ontario, 1.9 in the Prairie provinces and 4.5 in British Columbia.

The budget announced by the minister does not in any way indicate what solutions are contemplated by the government to solve this problem. This situation will, in my opinion, be more severe next winter because the present government has, without informing the provinces and municipalities beforehand, discontinued the winter works program which had been put into effect by our party when we were in power.

They would rather eliminate the program than providing work for those people in winter. Even if there have been some abuses in the past, some people earned money in winter time and could survive because they could work. But this winter the only course offered to them will be unemployment insurance, social assistance.

Mr. Speaker, I do not think this a good way for the minister to tackle this unemployment problem, by ignoring it. If this government wanted to eliminate winter works, the only thing to do was merely to provide provinces and municipalities with an alternate solution. We ask the government to provide us one but it gave us no response.

Mr. Speaker, for all those reasons, we are fully justified in supporting the amendment moved by the hon. member for Edmonton West and I hope that among our Liberal friends, who during the election campaign showed compassion for the plight of the poor people, unemployed people in Quebec and in other provinces, there will be a few members to rise and support our amendment. The budget introduced by the Minister of Finance is completely unacceptable to the population as a whole, especially to the poor people; obviously, it is not in this way that the government and the minister will establish the main heads in order to set the great principles that will bring to Canada the just society the Right Hon. Prime Minister so often referred to during the election campaign.

Mr. Henri Latulippe (Compton): Mr. Speaker, I am happy to avail myself of this opportunity to say on behalf of the Ralliement créditiste what we think of the present administration, what we think of the past

The Budget—Mr. Latulippe

administrations, of the "smashed up" budgets. Since the end of the 1939-1945 war, we have known nothing else but "smashed up" budgets. We have had different Liberal and Conservative administrations and they were all administrations with a smashed up budget. They increased taxes, which in turn increased the cost of living and led the economy to an unsufferable unbalance, almost beyond remedy. So this economy's balance must be reestablished and I believe there is nobody among the members of this government who can offer solutions.

The Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson) has no other solution than to increase taxes and the price of services. The price of services is rising at all levels of society.

The governments bleed the people dry to speak bluntly, and they benefit much more from loans than the individuals. The governments can borrow money at a much lower rate than the individuals. And because the all-round cost of living is allowed to rise, individuals have to borrow money at unconscionable interest rates, that are exorbitant and even criminal for society, for the individuals and for the families.

The governmental budgets, at all levels, announce increases in taxes. It is a universal disease. We call that austerity because international finance and leaders of all governments say so.

Tax increases please no one, Mr. Speaker. On the contrary, everybody is complaining privately or publicly. Each and every one grumbles against taxes, but strange contradiction, there is an almost unanimous belief that taxes are inevitable.

Mr. Speaker, let all of those gentlemen who claim taxes are necessary rejoice, because the government has once more fulfilled their wishes. Surely, it is the government's fault, but it is also our fault; in short, it is the fault of every member, every taxpayer who fails to take his own responsibilities. Taxes are claimed to be necessary, there are some who are always ready to let the others carry their burden. Many fight taxes with all their might but make every effort to avoid paying them as they should.

When you are among the mighty it is not too bad. But it is not so simple when you are