

*The Budget—Mr. Nowlan*

The hon. member referred to the member for Halton and said something about the curate's egg which was only bad in spots. Certainly my hon. friend and his associates have had a lot of experience with bad eggs, so we will take his judgment on that at any time. I am not unmindful of the fact, Mr. Speaker, that it is a challenge to follow the hon. member who has just taken his seat, because he has not only progressed from the rank of statesman to a leading member of the opposition but he is now entitled to an award for Canadian fiction by virtue of the book which he has recently edited and published. It is on sale now, and I hope he is enjoying substantial royalties from its sale. His fictional ability, as exemplified in the editing of that book, has been demonstrated to a high degree by the speech he made this afternoon, which was fictional almost from beginning to end.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Including the extracts from the Minister of Finance?

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** That was the only respectable part of the speech.

**Mr. Nowlan:** The hon. member made a different approach to this problem from that which I expected. I thought when he came to deal with the budget he would deal with it seriously instead of on a fictional, partisan basis which was unworthy of the hon. member in dealing with such an important subject. He having blazed the trail, however, perhaps I can be forgiven for following along somewhat in the same vein.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Two wrongs do not make a right.

**Mr. Nowlan:** The hon. member now having finished the display of his fictional ability, perhaps he will sit quietly and let me try to follow along. I cannot hope to emulate the high degree of fiction which he put into his speech, but at least I will try to deal with the facts and the record as it has been established and as it should be reiterated this afternoon.

The hon. member included some references to statements by the hon. member for Eglinton, the only serious reference in his whole speech, when he mentioned the matter of unemployment. As my colleague the Minister of Finance said a moment ago, that was the only part of the speech which was worthy of repetition in the house today. This government, Mr. Speaker, appreciates the problem of unemployment to just as great a degree as hon. members opposite. We know there is some unemployment in this country.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** Some?

**Mr. Nowlan:** Yes, some unemployment in this country. We know there are pockets of

unemployment and that where unemployment exists, whether it is one individual, a family or a group of individuals, if it inflicts hardship upon people it is the responsibility of government to recognize that fact and, in conjunction with provincial governments, business and industry, to attempt to deal with it. I suggest, in that connection, that this government has done a very great deal. I suggest we have done more toward the solution of this problem than would have been thought possible or than has ever been done by any government in the past.

We discussed figures. My hon. friend has questioned the figures which apparently appear in this booklet to which he has referred and which I have not had the opportunity to scan. He knows that there are figures and figures dealing with unemployment. There are figures which have been used by hon. gentlemen opposite and which certainly were highly unrealistic. We have, for instance, a situation which I saw the other day when I was down in my own constituency. Years ago the fishermen came ashore in the fall, they worked in the woods or lived at home and milked the cow. They did work when they were ashore. Now the fishermen are unemployed and their numbers swell this great army of unemployed because they are drawing unemployment insurance. There are other classes who have been admitted to this group, so the group has been greatly increased during the last few years.

There are also, no doubt, a lot of people who are taking advantage of unemployment insurance and who are registering as unemployed. I had an experience the other day. I received a letter, and I am almost ashamed to say that it came from a constituent of mine. This person felt he knew me so well he started "Dear George". He said he started working last spring, worked all summer and last fall. Then he said "last week I went to the unemployment insurance office and asked for my unemployment benefits. What do you suppose they did to me, George? They offered me a job." He said, "George, why did they play this dirty trick on me? You have to do something about it." This is one factor in the unemployment situation.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** That is a very small factor.

**Mr. Nowlan:** I am not saying how large it is. I am saying that that factor is the only one not exaggerated by the hon. member when he tramped up and down this country bewailing unemployment, or when he tramped up and down before the television cameras in the Coliseum in his bid for the leadership of his party. Certainly, however, unemployment as he portrayed it is far different from