

came back and made the same statement in this house later. It was again denied. He is repeating it again now. This is the plainest breach of the privileges of the house in repeated assertions of something that is not true. I say that what he is saying and what he is trying to do is dastardly and false.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member cannot understand that language, he cannot understand English. I mentioned *Business Week* which states as follows:

Canada chalked up the highest growth rate of any Atlantic community country—

Where are these people who went about in sepulchral tones and talked about the awfulness of the Canadian economy? No wonder they want an election. Their sins are now finding them out.

The Mercantile Bank of Canada has this to say:

Devaluation has provided a powerful force contributing to a better external balance, increased production and more employment.

I have only to look at the records as to Canada's foreign exchange position. It is one of the best, if not the best, in all our history, according to the record in today's *Globe and Mail*. The *Financial Post* states:

Canadian steel makers—

And may I say that steel is always indicative of an economy going up or down.

—are being hard pressed to cope with the record flood of orders for cold rolled steel sheets.

The Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, states:

One of the main sources of strength as this year progressed has been the substantial rise in the volume of exports... Personal incomes have continued to expand in the wake of increased employment opportunities, higher rates of pay, and record levels of farm income.

Then, Canadian business had this to say. I do not like to put these things on the record, Mr. Speaker, because I know how hon. members opposite feel. They, who predicted that the country was going into bankruptcy today, are compelled to sit and to realize that their statements have no basis; and they knew they were false when they made them.

I mentioned the reserve. In today's paper the Canadian Press carries this report:

Canada's reserves gained \$123,100,000 during January to a record \$2,862,500,000 due to the receipt of \$125,000,000 in U.S. dollars from a government bond issue in New York last fall.

Then it goes on to say this:

Still to be repaid from the reserves is \$300,000,000 borrowed from the international monetary fund by the government at the time of the foreign exchange crisis last June when the reserves reached their low point of about \$1.1 billion on June 24.

Alleged Lack of Government Leadership

That has been the picture all the way along. Have they learned their lesson?

An hon. Member: They will never learn.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, they are at it again. The hon. member for Davenport (Mr. Gordon) was out west. He said, "Oh, things are gloomy ahead, as I see them". May I say that he did not see ahead very well. He said that our national production would not attain the present level until three years from now. They are all starting at that same old dirge again. I think Mr. Winters joined in it the other day as well. I say this, Mr. Speaker. The same authors and the same spokesmen are abroad in the land again. The propaganda trumpets are being tuned for another doleful dirge on this nation's economy. Mr. Speaker, may I say that the people today know who told them the truth.

I could go into the questions of trade and agriculture. As far as trade is concerned, all of us know the tremendous expansion that is taking place. Every effort is being made to ensure that for the first time in the Department of Trade and Commerce we go out after trade in every part of the world.

Agriculture? All you have to do is ask the farmers: "What about your incomes"? What did the pegging of the dollar do? You remember what hon. members opposite said. They said to the farmers: "You are going to lose your markets. This is a very serious situation. Prices are going to go down." That was repeated over and over again. Let me say this. We have extensive measures in mind under the Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Act, ARDA, which in the years ahead I believe will stand as a monument to the greatness of the contribution of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Hamilton), a charter for the development of rural communities and maximum utilization of the nation's land and resources.

I am not going into the question of social security, except to say this. We cannot get anything through in this house because all the official opposition does is watch the clock to be sure nothing will pass within a reasonable length of time. That has been their attitude. Let none of them say they have not been boasting about it, because during Christmas week the old propagandist for that party started to say to the press: "We will hold them up so they will not be able to get their estimates through. We will hold them up so they will not get any money and then they will have to go to the country." Then the individual in question, whom that shrug of the shoulders along with other movements identifies, went on to say: "They will not