

The Address—Mr. Starr

As a member of the previous government I had some intimate concern with the problem of unemployment. To the new Minister of Labour (Mr. MacEachen) I express my congratulations and my assurance that he can count upon me for complete understanding of the problems with which he will be faced. During the past several years we heard a great deal from hon. gentlemen opposite, when they were in the official opposition, about the problems which beset this country. As I pointed out earlier, Mr. Speaker, a young, growing nation such as Canada will always be faced with problems. Those problems must be resolved in the best way possible by whoever has that responsibility at the time. There has been some reference in this debate to unemployment. I do not wish to go into this subject at the moment to any great extent. The Prime Minister in his speech averaged out unemployment over the years prior to 1957. He also averaged out unemployment during the years since then, and pointed up the great differences that occurred in those years.

During the election campaign hon. gentlemen opposite promised the people of this country full employment. We will give them a reasonable time to implement this promise; then we will assess the results to ascertain whether they meant what they said or whether it was only a hoax perpetrated upon the Canadian people. I remember some of these hon. gentlemen, and I see some of their faces now—the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Deschatelets), the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Martin), who is not here—who showed a great deal of concern over the unemployment problem and certainly brought it to our attention with great vehemence. They were worried about unemployment in the provinces; they were worried about unemployment in their municipalities. It will be interesting to see what these gentlemen who now occupy the treasury benches and have the responsibility and opportunity are going to do about those problems in their provinces and constituencies. We will keep track of what is happening, what the situation is and what the results are.

By the measures implemented in the past two years by the former government we were able to reduce unemployment month by month and increase employment month by month and year by year. It will be interesting to see whether this government with its policies, will be able to continue that trend of decreasing unemployment. If they are not able to increase or at least continue that trend they will certainly hear from us, and I think we will be right in pointing out the serious problem to them. I hope they will

continue to maintain their concern now they are in office. But more important, I hope they will do something about the situation and continue what we started in the past, the results of which are now evident month by month and year by year.

I hope, Mr. Speaker, they will not take the attitude, for example, that because the Prime Minister has taken two trips out of the country, all our international and domestic problems will be solved. After all, we still have not felt the effects of trips which will no doubt be taken by the new Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Martin). I have watched him for a few days, and he has a faraway look. I think he visualizes some of the trips he might be making outside this country. I would say to him if he were here—and he can read it in *Hansard*—that the most important thing he has to remember is that primarily he is the member for Essex East including the city of Windsor. He was so concerned, and rightly so, about the economic situation in Windsor that he must apply himself to rectifying the situation in that city; then he can make trips abroad.

Mr. Churchill: We will pin him down here.

Mr. Starr: We will certainly keep our eye on what is happening in Windsor and to what extent he will be able to convince his colleagues on the treasury benches that they must rectify the situation with which he has been so vitally concerned for the past five and a half years.

One of the problems over which hon. gentlemen opposite expressed great concern was that of foreign control of Canadian industry. One of those who expressed concern was the Minister of Finance (Mr. Gordon), who recently made one of his frequent excursions into print as the author of an article entitled "We must buy Canada back". I must say that I agree entirely with his analysis of that problem. We can have no employment security in this country as long as we are a nation of branch plants, as long as management decisions affecting the course of our production, and thereby the existence of jobs, continue to be made outside this country. It is to be hoped that this government will come to grips with this problem. One way to deal with it is to stimulate more production in Canada.

It is interesting to read the speech from the throne and see the proclamation by this government that they will establish a ministry of industry, that a minister will be appointed whose prime objective will be to have consultation with industry in order to build up more industry in Canada and thereby provide more jobs. On the other