

than in any other industrialized nation. For example, Japan has a population of 100 million and is rated as one of the strongest industrial countries of the world, a country of enormous growth. During the four year period 1967-71 the increase in the Japanese labour force was 741,000. During the same period the increase in the Canadian work force—not labour force but work force—was 700,000, a shade under that of one of the most powerful industrial nations in the world.

As far as job creation is concerned, what has been the history in Europe? How many new jobs have been created by the United Kingdom in the last four years? The answer is that no new jobs have been created; there has been a net reduction of over 600,000. How many new jobs have been created in Germany during the last four years? The answer is no new jobs; in fact, just under 200,000 fewer jobs now exist. How many new jobs have been created in the last four years in Italy? The answer is 164,000, and Italy has a population a shade under three times that of this country. If hon. members have not totalled up the figures, the increase in the Canadian work force within the last four years has been greater than the combined increase in the labour forces of the Common Market countries, the United Kingdom and Sweden.

I think this is an important statistic in light of this resolution, which refers to opening "increased opportunities for productive employment to Canadians". I compliment the drafter of the resolution because it is a positive way of putting it, though I suspect the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings did not compliment his colleague. I can only assume that he chose to ignore the positive aspect of the resolution which emphasizes employment opportunities. As I have said, no industrialized country has a better record than this country regarding job creation.

Turning to the two other aspects of this resolution, may I deal with the question of production and trade, issues that were raised by the lead-off opposition spokesman. He dodged very quickly over the question of price performance. I think he would acknowledge that Canada's price performance is an important part of keeping Canadian goods competitive in world markets. After all, he should know; he was minister of trade and commerce at one time and I have already indicated that his record as minister does not compare with the record of my colleague today. One of the reasons it does not compare is, perhaps, that Canada's price performance during the last three years has been better than most, if not all, of our industrial competitors. The increase in prices in Canada last year was 2.9 per cent.

Let me give the House the history of the last three years. The increase in 1969 was 4.5 per cent, in 1970, 3.4 per cent and in 1971, 2.9 per cent, a very reassuring trend. In 1970, the increase in the United States was 5.9 per cent compared to our 3.4 per cent, and in the United States last year it was 4.3 per cent. The tussle with prices is not one that is ever concluded; it is a continuing one. There is no question that there are many in Canada, including the members of this government, who are concerned about keeping rising prices under control. The preliminary figures I have show that the Canadian performance compares with the best in the world. Every member on this

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side of the House would compare himself only with the best in the world.

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Incidentally, I was interested in the fact that opposition speakers did not seem to want to deal with the Canadian performance in comparison with the performance of other countries. They did not seem to be ready to compare the success story of Canada with the performance of other countries, and perhaps for all too obvious reasons.

Let us deal with the output of goods and services in 1970. There was a general recognition of a slowdown in the international economic community during that period. Canada, being as highly dependent as it is on international trade and the economies of other countries, was not immune. For example in 1970 the increase in real gross national product, that is the over-all real domestic product, amounted to only 2.6 per cent, but that still compares favourably with an actual decline in the United States of around one-half of one per cent.

What about the temporary pause we noted in the first quarter of 1972? Let us not forget that this followed an exceptionally fast growth in 1971. In the most recent half year, the seasonally adjusted volume of industrial production was expanded at an annual rate of 7½ per cent. For manufacturing output alone, the rate of expansion was 6.7 per cent. There was an increase in the industrial production annual rate of 7½ per cent and a manufacturing output of 6.7 per cent. Let me draw the attention of the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings, who raised this question, to the fact that both these output rates, manufacturing and industrial production, are well above the average for either the 1960's or the most recent five-year period. Again, it seems to me that the hon. member has chosen to bury himself in his papers rather than acknowledge that important fact.

I have dealt with industrial production, manufacturing output, employment and prices. I could go on at some length in respect of how our index of the volume of industrial production compares with that of other countries. In the United States, for instance, the increase was only 3.7 per cent. In Canada in the first four months of this year it was 6.5 per cent, well above the United States performance. Similar comparisons for the recent 12-month period show an increase of 4.3 per cent for Japan, 1.2 per cent for Germany, so by almost any yardstick the performance of the Canadian economy has to be rated number one, the best in the world.

Let me briefly touch on trade figures. In 1971, we had a surplus of approximately \$2.9 billion. We had a trade surplus in the most recent months which was still running at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1.4 billion. Now, what about this matter of the end product which the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings raises from time to time? There has been a suggestion that our manufactured content is not as high as it should be. Let me give these figures. Apart from undeniable success in the promotion of external trade, Canada has also had considerable success in upgrading the proportion of its goods being sold in finished form. The proportion of end products in Canada's total exports has gone up from 12.3 per cent in 1961 to 38.8 per cent a decade later. Thus far in 1972 the propor-