

*Announcement of Royal Birth*

country; and I call upon the government to abandon its policy of laissez-faire, to abandon its policy of drift, and to try now seriously to do something about this very grave problem.

The Minister of Labour has given us the national employment service figure as of January 28; he has now given us the number of people receiving unemployment insurance benefits as of January 31. I ask him some time today to give us the latest figures he has with regard to the national employment service unplaced applicants for jobs. On the basis of the figure of 782,000 people receiving unemployment insurance I do not think anyone can now contradict the suggestion that the real figure of unplaced applicants must be well over 800,000 people.

**Mr. Starr:** Mr. Chairman, I am prepared to give the latest figure to the hon. member. As of February 4, 1960, the figure is 792,908.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** That is as of February 4. Today is February 19. It may be that the minister will be having other figures before the end of the day. If not, he could avoid persistent interrogation that has come from this side and volunteer these figures as soon as they come to him, instead of being prodded, instead of being begged, instead of being urged to give those figures.

**Mr. Starr:** For the information of the hon. member, and in view of the statement he made, I want to say that these figures were never released at any time prior to this government coming into office. It was because of the co-operation that I wanted to extend to hon. members in this respect that these figures were divulged in this house, at the request of hon. members opposite.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** I did not object to the minister intervening. Under the rules of the committee this enables me to continue as though I had not spoken at all up to this point, and I welcome this intervention.

**The Chairman:** Order. May I say my silence should not be interpreted as agreement.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** Your silence may not be so interpreted, but there can be no doubt about the point, Mr. Chairman. I have no objection to the Minister of Labour making this correction, and what he has said is true. It has not been the custom. That custom developed last year; but what I am seeking to point out is that except on one occasion the minister has had questions put to him, and it was only as a result of those questions that he made a reply.

Surely the situation is this. Whatever figure we accept, the situation is serious and something has to be done about this problem.

It will be no answer for the minister to say that unemployment is not new in this country. The fact is—as I hope to show some time during the course of this debate, if not when I am speaking at this particular time—that unemployment has been more serious in percentages since this government came into office than at any time while the previous administration was in office. During the past two and one half years we have had on an average over 6 per cent of our working force out of work. This percentage is higher than at any time previously except in 1933-35. Something has to be done about this problem, and I propose to deal—

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Chairman, I do not want to interrupt the hon. gentleman, but I would ask you to rise and report progress so I may make an announcement.

**The Chairman:** Is it agreed that the committee rise, report progress and ask leave to sit again?

Progress reported.

**Mr. Speaker:** I understand that the Prime Minister has an announcement to make, and by leave of the house I suggest that the bells might be rung for a minute or two to summon other members.

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Speaker:** Let the bells be rung for two minutes.

**THE ROYAL FAMILY**

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF BIRTH OF A PRINCE

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, all hon. members will have heard the glad news that a prince has been born to Her Majesty the Queen. This is an hour when her people rejoice and with sincere sentiments of affectionate loyalty pay tribute to Her Majesty for the nobility, devotion and selflessness with which she has discharged her duties under the institution of the monarchy, which Canada has maintained and preserved on this continent.

The family life of Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Prince Philip has been an example of domestic happiness to all the world and has strengthened the bond between the throne and the people—a bond based not on pomp and power but on love and affection.

All hon. members will join me in an expression of the hope that the infant prince will know peace and be supported by a living faith and that strength, always under God's will, to meet whatever responsibilities the years