

*The Address—Mr. Heaps*

allowed to come here in reasonable numbers. I know whereof I speak when I make this statement.

I will now leave the question of refugees, having dealt with it longer than I intended, thanks to interjections from the opposite side.

The Secretary of State, probably in the exuberance of the moment or encouraged by the plaudits of his audience, also made reference to the unemployment situation. Let me quote from the *Montreal Star*:

He pointed out that the federal government was ready to assume the cost of unemployment insurance for the whole dominion, but the main obstacle was opposition from the government of Quebec.

I would ask either the Prime Minister or the Minister of Labour whether that is a statement of fact, whether the dominion government is prepared to assume the whole cost of unemployment insurance in Canada, as reported in the *Montreal Star* of January 21, and purporting to give what was stated in *Montreal* by the Secretary of State. I do not know whether on this question he spoke on behalf of the government, and when I read it I wondered whether it was a new government policy being enunciated in *Montreal*. I suggest that the next time any minister of the crown is delegated to declare government policy it might be a wiser thing to have that policy declared from the floor of the house where hon. members can hear it and *Hansard* can take it down.

Mr. ROGERS: Has the hon. gentleman the statement that was made there?

Mr. HEAPS: I have just quoted from the *Montreal Star*.

Mr. ROGERS: Read the statement on unemployment insurance.

Mr. HEAPS: I will read again what the Secretary of State is reported to have said:

He pointed out that the federal government was ready to assume the cost of unemployment insurance for the whole dominion, but the main obstacle was opposition from the government of Quebec.

I wish to know whether that is a policy of the government, that is all.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The policy of the government with respect to unemployment insurance has been that as soon as this government receives power to deal with unemployment insurance as a federal matter the government is prepared to take over the entire cost of unemployment insurance—

Mr. HEAPS: The Prime Minister is getting into a little difficulty.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: —apart from any contribution from any province at all. [Mr. Heaps.]

Mr. HEAPS: That is qualifying the statement as contained in this paper.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Under a contributory scheme of course.

Mr. HEAPS: But before the Prime Minister made the qualification it was stated that the government was prepared to assume the whole cost of a federal unemployment insurance scheme. That is what the Secretary of State said in this item, and that is what I want to find out.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The Secretary of State was evidently referring to the situation as between the provinces and the dominion.

Mr. HEAPS: What he said is obvious. He was probably playing a little bit of politics.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): Why does not my hon. friend wait until the Secretary of State is here? I give him my word of honour that if I had to attack him I would wait until he was in his seat—and very often, he himself is not in his seat.

Mr. HEAPS: On Friday I was scheduled to speak to-day and we were talking about closing the debate to-morrow. I did not know whether the Secretary of State would be here, and if I did not get my turn to-day, I might not get it to-morrow.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): Did my hon. friend tell him that he was going to lay a charge against him?

Mr. HEAPS: This is not a charge.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): It is, based on the *Montreal Star* and the *Montreal Gazette*—

Mr. HEAPS: But that is not a charge. I am not making an insinuation.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): —strong C.C.F. newspapers.

Mr. HEAPS: I have never heard such childish remarks coming from the right hon. Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe). I am surprised at him.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): Reciprocity.

Mr. HEAPS: Thank you. To say I am making a charge against an hon. member of this house when I quote from a responsible newspaper what that hon. member is supposed to have said—

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): I say it is unfair comment.