

*Economic Policies and Unemployment*

during the four years of the Progressive Conservative administration, from 1958 to 1962 and those are the people who want to give a lesson in economics and unemployment control to the present government. I say: Physician, heal thyself. Before becoming a professor, one should be a pupil and learn to manage.

Besides, I was always amazed at such a phenomenon, that the Minister of Finance, whoever he may be, gets the assistance of a whole team of specialists as advisers, and he has the benefit of the experience of the Bank of Canada, the opportunity to attend conferences and to consult with all those responsible for finance in every country participating in the International Monetary Fund. He must, therefore, certainly have some idea about managing the finances and the economy of the country. There are people, on the opposition side, whose experience is extremely limited and who, in spite of the fact that most of them have never given any proof of their ability in this field, come here and lecture the Minister of Finance.

I do not say that this government is perfect nor do I pretend there is no poverty in Quebec, but I do say that if this government had not taken courageous and efficient steps, the situation would be infinitely worse and the recession period would last infinitely longer.

I do say that instead of fishing in troubled waters, which is quite easy and most often just sheer demagoguery, our friends in the opposition should realize that we are all Canadians, solidary towards each other; they should realize that the future of our country is not based on the outcome of the next election, that the future of our economy is at stake and that it is imperative that we should join hands instead of stirring up emotions.

The hon. member for Témiscamingue (Mr. Caouette) said, as he usually does, that the Bank of Canada for instance, is designed to maintain the Canadian economy. He blames it for not maintaining a very strong economy and for not reducing unemployment more considerably.

That reminds me of a striking fact: Our Lord Jesus Christ, when he came on earth, intended to save the human race. When he established His Church, it was precisely to save mankind. And Our Lord Jesus Christ is much more powerful than the hon. member for Témiscamingue or the Bank of Canada. At least I do hope so. It happened neverthe-

[Mr. Mongrain.]

less that Our Lord Jesus Christ did not succeed in converting everybody. Along the road, Our Lord lost many of his disciples. To the whole mankind, Our Lord said: Follow me or my Church and eventually, you might be entitled to Heaven.

• (3:30 p.m.)

About the same can be said of an organization like the Bank of Canada, designed to maintain the utmost prosperity, but which cannot attain a greater degree of perfection than the Creator or Christ himself. Then, it is rather childish to keep saying: Listen, our attempt to make the economy buoyant was not fully successful because the Bank of Canada or the government are failing in their duty.

In fact, there are too many contingencies. The matter is not so simple. A truly perfect economy in a country like Canada is not possible. However, we must aim at perfection by every possible means possible, especially by courageous means such as those taken by the government, even at the risk of being unpopular. The state must resort even to means frowned upon by the electorate. In fact, it should try to get across to the Canadian voters these very eloquent words spoken by the late President Kennedy; the citizen should not always ask himself what his country can do for him; on occasion he must ask himself what sacrifice he can make for his country, if he wants his country to enjoy reasonable progress of prosperity.

And in that connection, I noted that the hon. member for Sainte-Marie, when I addressed myself briefly to him, reminded me that there probably were unemployed and poor people in my constituency. It is true that there are, just as anywhere else. However, in my constituency, they have realized that we will be able to cure the evils of the Canadian community if we close the ranks and understand that we cannot always ask the government to give us all the things we want. We understand that we have to do our share of the sacrifice.

The hon. member for Sainte-Marie also said that the Canadian people made a mistake when they voted for the Liberals. Well, Quebecers have just made another mistake, since they have elected 72 Liberal members in the province of Quebec, while the only electoral platform was federalism.

I will say to the hon. member for Sainte-Marie that the Liberals have regain in my area three constituencies from the Union