

Supply—Labour

Since this is party literature no one in the house accepts the authorship of it, and I can refer to that statement in the words of the Minister of Finance by saying, "That is a blatant lie." I want you to understand, Mr. Chairman, that is not the kind of language I use. I simply use the language of the distinguished Minister of Finance. Or is he the real Prime Minister?—we do not know. We have not known since Quebec. What we do know is that this gentleman is a leading member of the government that publishes this kind of false propaganda, intentionally or ignorantly—they can have their choice as to which particular adverb they wish to use—

Mr. Martin (Essex East): And distributed by all Conservative members in this house.

Mr. Pickersgill: Distributed undoubtedly largely at public expense to thousands of people all over the country, to mislead the Canadian people. This document is staggering. It is unbelievable that anyone who is Prime Minister should be so careless of his public utterances, so indifferent to what he was saying as to say that this act, until the present government came into office, had been in operation in only six provinces. It is incomprehensible, sir. I just cannot understand what they were thinking about.

Mr. Horner (Jasper-Edson): Unemployment assistance, obviously.

Mr. Pickersgill: I am sure the Prime Minister did not know any better, or he would not have circulated it when the speech writers produced this kind of thing for him. Make the most charitable interpretation you like of it. I could go on and find a lot more things in the document "The record speaks" which my hon. friend from Leeds has handed me, but since it relates to another statute I shall not use it at the moment, because I intend to deal with the act we are now considering.

I ask, when you have such appalling ignorance manifested, displayed, advertised by the Prime Minister, is it any wonder that nothing is being done about this legislation? Is it any wonder they have persisted, like ostriches, with the view that nothing needs to be done? After five years of watching this fund gradually melt away they still have no remedy. They have remitted it to a commission—

Mr. Henderson: Will the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. Pickersgill: —and I agree with what the hon. member for Essex East said about the commission. Mr. Chairman, there seems to be a disturbance in the house. I hope it

will subside as it has arisen in a kind of volcanic fashion, and with about as much benefit to the public generally.

An hon. Member: About as much benefit to the people in your riding as you are.

Mr. Pickersgill: As I was saying before I was interrupted, a government which has had so little knowledge of what is going on—

Mr. Pallett: You have said that many times.

Mr. Pickersgill: I have said it a number of times but I know that hon. gentlemen opposite, especially some of the more notorious ones from a certain province in this country, need to have things repeated a great many times before there is any penetration.

Mr. Pallett: That was Goebbels' philosophy too.

Mr. Pickersgill: Did the hon. gentleman make any observation?

Mr. Pallett: I merely said that the repetition of such statements was Goebbels' philosophy.

Mr. Pickersgill: No. The repetition of false statements was Goebbels' philosophy. The repetition of truth was not. The repetition of false statements—this is a good example:

For the first time, fishermen and other seasonal workers are included under its coverage.

—this is the kind of thing Goebbels said. I did not introduce this note into the debate, Mr. Chairman. It was the chief whip on the government side. I was attempting to put the truth on the record, the truth about this kind of false propaganda and I am very glad that the hon. gentleman should have seen fit, as the Minister of Finance has also done, to brand this kind of thing in the way it should be branded.

When a political party descends to this kind of thing, descends to deliberate, calculated, false statements which they do not think will be found out, such as this—

For the first time, fishermen and other seasonal workers are included under its coverage.

—then I think it deserves to be described in the way that the chief whip has described the propagandists of his own party, using a word I would not use to describe them, but a word he has chosen to introduce into this debate.

Mr. Pallett: It describes your statement.

Mr. Pickersgill: If the hon. gentleman says he is describing my statements, then I am sure Your Honour will ask him to withdraw such a statement about a member of the house. I have made no such statements about any hon. member of the house. I have made statements about these anonymous propagandists