

that all our parties represent a good cross-section of Canada. I only hope he will not have to follow the course of the hon. member for Joliette (Mr. La Salle) who some years ago gave up any hope he had of explaining policies of bilingualism to his colleagues on that side.

• (1630)

Unemployment insurance was also a subject which was much discussed during the election, and on which we had some lessons to learn. I am always surprised to hear the criticism which those who are not in our party level at us when we seek to draw from the lessons of the election, correct what mistakes we might have made and apply what conclusions we might have drawn from the electoral results. Had we decided not to make any changes they would have said it was typical Liberal arrogance, that we did not listen to the electorate and that we intended to go on forever not mending our ways. When we do decide to mend our ways, we are chided by members opposite for mending our ways and therefore for being hypocritical about it. Unemployment insurance is another example of where we can mend our ways by ensuring that the spirit and the letter of the law is applied. The Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. Andras) has made some public statements. In due course, he will be announcing the policies which will be brought in by administration and legislation. The essence of them, however, is that in order to qualify for unemployment insurance one will really have to be available and will really have to be willing to work. In this way, we will certainly be disqualifying from unemployment insurance people who just draw the insurance and really do not attempt to find a job or who disqualify themselves because they quit a job when they are working.

A fifth example has to do with the LIP grants and the Opportunities for Youth grants. It is true that these programs were recognized, even by members opposite, as imaginative ways to ensure that useful work could be done by the community, ways which were unusual and ways which were outside the normal industrial sector. Indeed, I believe most members of every party complain when certain LIP grants or certain Opportunities for Youth grants which they judge to be valuable are not recognized and admitted into the program. But there is no doubt that here, too, there have been some abuses. That is why in the future we will tie these programs to the manpower offices themselves to ensure that the people who are qualified for these grants are hired through the manpower offices and that preference is given to those who are unemployed or on welfare.

As was indicated in the Speech from the Throne, the field of welfare is one which generally is under the administration of the provinces. It is also one to which Canada contributes handsomely through the Canada Assistance Plan. It would be impossible to change the administration of welfare and eradicate abuse of it single-handedly, but it is our intention to discuss with the provinces a way of administering these welfare programs so that incentives to work are contained in the program. Work incentives must be built into our welfare system so that everyone who works retains substantially greater amounts of income than those who can work but who do not.

*The Address—Mr. Trudeau*

A further example of Liberal policies which must be adjusted without abandonment of the Liberal principle of helping all those parts of the country which need assistance in attaining faster growth is in the changes which must be brought into the DREE program. This was a department with little more than three years existence and it had always been the intention of the minister to bring a review of that department's work in front of the government. Already some announcements have been made that the DREE program will be decentralized. The operations will be decentralized in such a way as to obtain greater integration with other levels of government and with the private sector.

In the field of the economy, no doubt we did not attain the results that this country and ourselves would have liked to have attained. During the election—and I think it was a mistake on our part—we did indicate that in comparison to other industrialized countries Canada had really not done badly. We quoted expert advice from the OECD countries, from the *London Times* and from various financial journals. We indicated that really, by comparison, Canada was performing rather well in economic terms. However, we recognize that that was not an approach which the Canadian people found satisfactory. They do not want to be told that in historic terms or in terms of comparison with other countries our economy is not a dismal one. They want to be assured that Canada will do everything it can to fulfil its high potential. That is why in the Speech from the Throne we chose words to indicate we wanted to bring about the most rapid decline possible in unemployment and wanted to bring about a more satisfactory exploitation of the economy's potential. Much more will be said on this by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) when he participates in this debate and, of course, when he brings in his budget.

But it is certain that the Canadian people in their decision of October 30 felt that a high growth rate was not enough, and that it should be high enough to fulfil the economy's potential. That is why the Speech from the Throne indicates quite clearly the high priority the government attaches to achieving better performance in the economy, both immediately and in the long run. We know the expectations and forecasts for 1973 all point in the direction of a rate of growth in excess of the economy's potential, a potential of about 5½ per cent as I believe the Economic Council of Canada mentions. But in view of the rate of growth in the labour force and the need to reduce unemployment from the unacceptable high levels which prevailed over the past few years, it is necessary for the economy to grow to the maximum of its potential if all people willing to work can find work. That is why it will be the objective of the government to ensure that a rapid and real economic growth will in fact take place.

• (1640)

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, the second set of reasons why we decided to form the government and meet Parliament has to do with all the goals we want to propose to the country for the 70's, for the immediate and remote future. Those are goals which were identified by the Liberals during their convention and have been accepted by the people. We are aware that it will not always be easy to achieve them but