

dent that perhaps the period of greatest harmony and greatest advance in this country was the period immediately following World War II when Canadians knew who they were and what they wanted, went after it and got it. We may today question the wisdom of the aims of that period, but the fact remains that they were aims and they were achieved.

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to participate in this debate. I would first like to congratulate the mover and the seconder of the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne. I found the hon. member for Bruce (Mr. Whicher) most entertaining, especially when he described the beauties of his riding. However, the same cannot be said for the latter part of his speech. If he loses his seat in the next election, I believe he would be well advised to look for a spot on Rowan and Martin's "Laugh-in." The hon. member for Trois-Rivières (Mr. Lajoie) who seconded the motion is to be congratulated for the sincerity with which he put forth his views on Canada.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard two speeches in rapid succession, one closing the third session and one opening the fourth session of the twenty-eighth Parliament. When reading these speeches I could not help but be reminded of a Billy Sunday revival hour which opened with a hymn entitled "How Great Thou Art" and closed with the hymn entitled "Count Your Blessings". These speeches are obviously the work of a smug, self-satisfied government that is out of touch with the needs and desires of the people whom it is elected to serve, a government which keeps saying over and over, like the former world heavyweight champion, Mohammed Ali, "I am the greatest".

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Crouse: That is not a view that is shared by many Canadians who view with concern the policies of this government. It is all very well to promise in the Throne Speech, and I use these words from the speech—

—the fundamental reform of protective measures which commenced last year with the new Unemployment Insurance Act will continue—

I ask you, Sir, what about the thousands of unemployed who are now entitled to benefits and who have been denied those benefits by the bungling of this government? During the recent parliamentary recess all of us had an opportunity to meet with our constituents. I found that the people I represent are in agreement with the concept that financial aid should be provided to those who are unable to find work. Moreover, they were also in agreement that benefits paid should be enough to live on. However, they were not in agreement with the philosophy that benefits should be so high that it makes it more attractive to be unemployed than to work.

In their view, and it is a view that I share, the bills for all those unemployed must be paid by all working Canadians. Why, they ask, is there no longer any incentive for people to work? What happened to the old-fashioned philosophy that you work for what you get? This country was not developed to its present state without initiative, and its further growth will be slowed down in an atmosphere where initiative is stifled by the "happy hand-out" philosophy of this administration.

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Speech from the Throne

A working man not only earns money, he also retains his self-respect. There is a dignity in working, a dignity in a job which cannot be secured by any other means. Any man worth his salt must feel that he is making a contribution, a contribution to himself, to his family, to his home and to his country, by being gainfully employed. Under this government, too many Canadians are being robbed of this basic right, too many Canadians are walking the streets. That is why they are saying, individually and collectively, and certainly in my riding, in three words their solution to the problem: the three words are, "Trudeau must go".

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Crouse: They have an addendum to that and they say, "Surely there must be a better way to run this country". With that I agree. Our farmers, our fishermen, our businessmen large and small are calling out today for leadership, leadership at the federal level. They are asking for the right to participate in the development of this country, a right which has obviously been denied them by the socialistic policies of the present government. Our young people come to me and say, "Surely we have a right to be more than viewers on the scene. Surely we have a right to be doers on the scene." I say that is what must be done if we are to get this country back on the rails and go forward and progress in unity together.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Crouse: At page 6, the Speech from the Throne states that a continuation and strengthening of government-industry relations is necessary in order that increasing demands for resources are met. That statement prompts the question: Who caused the deterioration between government and industry? Why has this government lost the confidence of Canadian businessmen? Why do Canadian businessmen no longer trust the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau)? Why do they no longer trust his cabinet?

The answers to those questions are many and varied, but in my opinion the incomprehensible new tax reform legislation has gone a long way toward widening the chasm of frustration, discontent, unrest and uncertainty which exists today between the business community and the government. As long as this situation exists we will have unemployment running at the 7 per cent level or greater in Canada. As long as we operate under the capitalistic system—and there are many who question how long that will be—it is our business community and not the government which will provide the greatest employment opportunities for Canadians.

Our present high unemployment rate is causing unrest and distress across this nation. However, regionally depressed areas such as Atlantic Canada must still bear the greatest share of the burden. Last month the Atlantic provinces unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted—here I am quoting government figures—rose to 10.5 per cent from 9.7 per cent the previous month. This is just not good enough. These figures give a clear indication of the ineffectiveness of the Trudeau government's policies to end regional disparities.