

*The Budget—Mr. Lundrigan*

if they could be translated into figures or percentages, would be worth many degrees. We can no longer afford to deprive ourselves of the intellectual and economic capabilities of this multitude of adults who are unable to attend the regular courses which would sanction their actual knowledge. We must use the talents and the potentialities of our adults in order to check "intellectual capitalism". Our youth realizes that the object of studies is not only education, but also teaching how to learn, teaching methodology.

Since money is the motor of economy, savings should be channelled and humanized through being used to foster economic and social recovery. We no longer believe capitalist philanthropists and expect them to alleviate poverty. Besides, capitalists see their revenues being heavily saddled with taxes of all kinds so they too must humanize. Our joint commitment is assuredly the best way to clear the air. Its most meaningful result will be economic recovery.

Now that we are collectively aware of what we want to become, all Canadians, whether they are federalists or separatists will have to achieve the future I have just outlined.

Mr. Speaker, let us hope that all will want to contribute to prosperity, which is an essential factor for the creation of a just society.

[English]

**Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate):** I would first like to congratulate the hon. gentleman who just spoke. Certain of the ideas which he put forward in his maiden speech were very acceptable, and I am sure they will be well received in his riding and in his province.

A few minutes ago we had a rather unusual experience in the House of Commons during a debate on what is certainly the most critical and chronic problem facing the Canadian nation at present when the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson), made a speech in order to fill in 30 or 40 minutes for his party, rather than accepting the challenge of every Canadian, and certainly of the 538,000 unemployed, that the government present some positive or encouraging statement to try to offset the serious psychological depression as well as the actual depression in Canada at present. Five hundred and thirty eight thousand people are waiting at the proverbial door of the government for the minister to make a statement which would give them a little encouragement. A tremendous number of people in the business community of Canada were anticipating a statement which would be positive, encouraging, rational, sensible, and not arrogant. Mr. Speaker, we have had a bitter disappointment. The Minister of Finance indicated that his government accepts the unemployment problem in Canada, that unemployment always exists in the winter, and that it is nothing new. It existed in the thirties, and even existed in the sixties.

● (5:10 p.m.)

We also heard about the fact that the government recognized the problem last March, and the minister

[Mr. Corriveau.]

went on to say that the government started to do something about it in December, 1970. I believe it was the mayor of Edmonton, Mayor Dent, who summed up the feelings of all Canadians when he said it was unrealistic for any government to expect that announcing a loan fund pittance of \$150 million in December, 1970, with the proviso that work under it start immediately, would have an effect on an unemployment problem which is so vast now that in excess of half a million Canadians are seeking employment.

The Minister of Finance went on to point out in great detail that he did not agree with the position of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield). He ridiculed our leader for lining up with the 3,000 to 5,000 bread seekers in Vancouver who assemble on the welfare lines twice a month. He ridiculed the fact that the Leader of the Opposition visited the soup kitchens in Vancouver, attended the unemployment offices in Winnipeg, and tried to console the 17 per cent unemployed in Kelowna. Today, Mr. Speaker, our leader is visiting Montreal which was the highest rate of unemployment among young Canadians of any part of Canada. The Minister of Finance was also going to advise the Leader of the Opposition on the proposals he could offer to eastern Canadians when he swings down that way in the coming days. He ridiculed our leader's proposal for a reduction in taxation. At the end of all these comments, he put an exclamation mark and a full stop, but left a question mark in the minds of all Canadians with regard to his proposals for alleviating the serious trend toward a critical unemployment problem for the rest of the year.

The minister talked about the fact that the government could continue to keep the screws on the economy in order to tighten it up. Our leader referred to this as a mechanistic approach to economic development. The minister said that things will get better by and by. Mr. Speaker, it would not be as tragic if that kind of attitude did not pervade the whole cabinet, and perhaps the whole of the Liberal party. We can tolerate one minister of the Crown having that kind of attitude. We can pass it off as a political move on his part, but having heard the Minister of Labour (Mr. Mackasey) yesterday, and having listened to the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) during the last couple of years, one has to wonder whether this is not a really serious, calculated plan. Perhaps it could be described as election economics. I do not know if that is included in the new economic theories or not, but this is what one must try to determine.

I sat in the House of Commons all day yesterday, Mr. Speaker. Seriously I wanted to hear the Minister of Labour speak. In the past, he appeared to be a man with a big heart and soul, and some conscience. Then yesterday he talked about the courageous creation of unemployment in his own province of Quebec, and bragged about the fact that governments in the western world will have to have a great deal of courage in future in order to undertake the creation of unemployment in view of the need to automate and rationalize certain industries. That statement of the minister's is reported on page 2507 of *Hansard*. I hope each Canadian gets a copy of *Hansard* and reads it.