

Interim Supply

Mr. Pickersgill: There are a lot of dead horses. The hon. member may be more accurate than he knows, but I would not describe the Prime Minister as a dead horse.

Mr. Bigg: Hee-haw.

An hon. Member: I could describe the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate as a certain part of a horse.

Mr. Pickersgill: There was in this house a debate on the subject of unemployment, a discussion which the Minister of Finance thought should not take place and which the Prime Minister described as a waste of time, and in which neither hon. gentleman took any part. And then the moment that debate was over or within two hours—that is perhaps a pardonable exaggeration even in the view of the hon. member for Saint John-Albert—within two hours of the time that debate ended the Prime Minister went on the air and said the following things about unemployment. I think we ought to have these statements put on the record here in parliament so that we in parliament will know and so that the public will know the kind of statements the Prime Minister of this country makes when he goes on the air and cannot be called to order by anyone. He said:

Our population is increasing—

Well, that is true, but it is not increasing nearly as rapidly as it was when we had a government that managed the affairs of this country well and carried out its promises. I continue:

—and the percentage going into the labour force is also on the increase.

That is also true, in a sense. The percentage that want to go into the labour force is increasing but their capacity to go into the labour force is unhappily not increasing at anything like as rapid a rate. I continue:

We have reached the peak of 6 million Canadians employed for the first time in our history.

We have passed that peak and are below it today, unfortunately, and we were below it when this speech was made, but the Prime Minister did not bother to say that. I continue:

The problem that faces us is that every day we must provide more jobs than were available the day before, and also provide jobs for all who desire to work.

The people of Canada certainly wish the government would provide more jobs. Just imagine, when the Prime Minister made that statement at least 555,000 Canadians, according to the latest figures, were out of work and 782,000 Canadians were drawing unemployment insurance and therefore, by definition, were unemployed. Nevertheless, the Prime Minister said:

—we must—also provide jobs for all who desire to work.

Why does the government not do it? What is the government going to do about it?

Hon. gentlemen opposite come in here and pretend to be managing the affairs of this country. They come to parliament and ask for a huge sum of money totalling \$650 million or almost that sum to manage the affairs of Canada for the next two months. But how are they managing? That, sir, is what concerns me here. The Prime Minister went on to say:

Now, what is the answer to this problem?

When the Prime Minister is in this chamber he asks the opposition to tell him the answers and when he goes on television he apparently asks the public. He went on to say:

Surely it is to develop our natural resources—

Listen to this, sir:

—which are capable of providing additional employment and additional income for all Canadians.

Well, why are they not providing it? I continue:

And this is at the essence of the problem and the policies which I enunciated as a new national policy for Canada, just over two years ago.

Just tell me, Mr. Chairman, one single development of natural resources of this country that has been started by the present administration? Oh, they have finished lots of things that were started by the previous government and when those things were finished there was nothing to put in their place. They have started nothing. As the hon. member for Villeneuve pointed out the other day, we built up these developments and they are destroying them.

This is the kind of statement the Prime Minister makes to the people of Canada:

When we look at what has been achieved in the short space of time, we can only regret that this policy had not been put into effect a good many years ago.

Well, I do not think the majority of the Canadian people are going to share that particular regret for very long. I can tell you, sir, that I do not often make predictions but I do make this one, that the vision of 1957 is going to turn out to be the worst nightmare the Canadian people ever had.

Mr. Churchill: It was a nightmare for you in 1957.

Mr. Pickersgill: It was no nightmare for me at all. The only nightmare I have is when I have to look at the hon. gentleman on television. I can assure him that is a nightmare that is widely shared.