

*The Address—Mr. Bourget*

cerned—I regret he is not here at this time, I understand it is not his day of guard duty—I congratulate him in particular, but I take the liberty of giving him one piece of advice, that is, not to try to imitate the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fleming) who is known for his exaggeration.

I had the opportunity, very recently, to read in a newspaper a report of an interview that the minister had given, and during which he stated that the Conservative party could have elected, at the next federal election, more members than the 50 they now have in Ottawa. He claimed that the Liberal party myth had been broken in 1958.

I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that at the time, the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys was not speaking in earnest but in jest, because he must realize now that the present Conservative bloc will completely disappear after the next election and that the accident which occurred in 1958 will not happen again.

I should like now to mention the masterful speech delivered by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Pearson) in this house on January 22 last, in which he showed, with supporting evidence, that the Conservative policy is a failure.

That speech caused the Prime Minister to lose his temper to such an extent that he forgot, at the outset of his remarks, to follow the long established tradition in this house, that is to congratulate the mover and the seconder of the address.

Like many others, I would have understood such a reaction if he had had an important and urgent statement to make, but far from it, all he did was to quote some selected extracts from a newspaper item.

It would be proper to point out that this article which, according to the Prime Minister, criticized the previous Liberal administration, stated also, as reported in an editorial published in the *Ottawa Citizen* of January 23, 1962, and entitled:

(Text):

The Prime Minister did not say that the same article had been even more critical of his regime and had included this sentence: "Instead of improving with the change of government, things got worse".

(Translation):

This oversight of the Prime Minister is, in my opinion, truly inexcusable; it clearly shows that our leader landed heavy blows from which the Prime Minister has not yet recovered.

Mr. Speaker, I am quite sure that this is the last session of this parliament and that a general election will soon take place.

[Mr. Bourget.]

Consequently, it came to my mind that it would be appropriate to review the Conservative government's administration during the last four years.

I will certainly not have enough time to examine all they did and all they failed to do during that period of time. That is why I shall limit myself to the three points which, I feel, are of major importance for the economy of our country.

First, I should like to speak of employment or perhaps I should say unemployment because unemployment has been prevailing during those four years of Conservative administration.

It is hard to forget the harsh words the members of the present government had for the former Liberal administration when they were sitting on this side of the house. At the time, they were claiming that there were too many unemployed in Canada.

We have not forgotten either the Prime Minister's vision of a Canada where there would be no unemployment under a Conservative government. His famous statement that as long as he would be Prime Minister, no one would suffer from unemployment in Canada, cannot be forgotten nor will it be forgotten especially during the next election campaign. According to him, the Conservatives had found the solution to the problem.

That was the refrain we heard during the 1957 and 1958 election campaigns. They painted a rosy vision for the benefit of the Canadian people but, after four years of Conservative regime, the public realizes that the colour of the vision has turned to a dark blue. Since the early thirties, never has unemployment been so serious in Canada.

To prove my point, I merely have to refer to statistics compiled by the d.b.s. and published by the Bank of Canada in December 1961.

If we compare the last four years of Liberal administration, that is from 1953 to 1956 inclusively, with the last four years of the present Conservative administration, or from 1958 to 1961, we see that the number of unemployed under the present government has been twice as high as under the Liberal government.

In fact, according to these figures, the number of unemployed under the Liberal administration was as follows: