

is larger than it was in the 1930s. He also recognizes that we had no figures: Statistics Canada, or its predecessor the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, did not start to publish unemployment statistics until 1953. We have no way of knowing what the percentage figures were during the depression. I can say to the hon. gentleman that in the early 1960s and 1970s—

Mr. Broadbent: I did not give the percentage. I gave the figure of some 800,000.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Yes, but in terms of percentage of the labour force we had higher unemployment in 1962, 1961, 1960, 1959 and in some of the early 1950s. I am saying to the hon. gentleman that this is not the worst unemployment we have had since the depression. We must compare the men and women out of work with the total labour force. I can recall to him—and I take limited satisfaction from it, in view of the current human conditions—that this government has been interested in new jobs. In the last three years we and the Canadian economy have found one million new jobs for Canadians.

The hon. gentleman mentioned housing. In the budget, I said that this remains a fundamental requirement of the government. It is one of the prime thrusts in the budget. We expect, and will continue to do so with the co-operation of my colleague the Minister of State for Urban Affairs (Mr. Danson), to inject the necessary stimulus into the economy to attempt to reach the target of 210,000 new units and new starts.

Mr. Broadbent: You need more than 210,000.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): We will argue that in a minute. I was impressed and, as a matter of fact, moved by the description the hon. gentleman gave on the state of poverty of this country. I share his concern. I say to him, again, that although we may disagree in respect of the approaches to a number of these issues, he has no monopoly on compassion. We are all trying to eradicate what is a blight on the Canadian scene.

I want to point out to him and to our colleagues in the House that we have done a great deal in an effort to protect those who are least able to defend themselves against economic cycles, against the erosion of inflation. We raised the old age pension and adjusted it against cost of living. We adjusted the guaranteed income supplement and increased it. We tripled family allowances and adjusted those against the rise in the cost of living to protect those families with small children, particularly those below the poverty line. We came up with the largest tax reduction in Canadian history, and 70 per cent of those reductions affect people with incomes of \$10,000 or less. We eliminated what the hon. gentleman considered to be a regressive sales tax for all clothing, all food and all drink except alcohol. We do represent, after all, the party which brought in medicare and hospitalization programs and we are committed to a guaranteed annual income.

Mr. Broadbent: Tell us about the Liberal Party in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Now I want to recall to the House some of the policies of the NDP if, perchance,

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by way of electoral accident, the hon. gentleman and his friends were ever to form a government in Canada. Hopefully, that is only remotely academic. In any event, I think the House deserves—

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the minister would permit a question.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Yes, sir.

Mr. Stanfield: In respect of the American economy and the trend of that economy the minister referred to the view of the United States Secretary of the Treasury that there would be an upturn in the fourth quarter. When will the minister determine whether there will be an upturn in the fourth quarter? Will it be at the end of the fourth quarter?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): I think the hon. gentleman knows me better than that, and also knows himself better than to take that question too seriously. I have given the best analysis I can at this stage of the situation. Since the hon. gentleman's party will in due course want to bring forward its own motion, for the moment I want to deal with the New Democratic Party.

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): I just hope, Mr. Speaker, that the time allocation is being adjusted accordingly.

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, I feel the House will agree to extend the time of the minister in the way he so generously did for me. I just want to say to the minister that unfortunately I cannot remain for the completion of his remarks; I have to visit one of his government's ambassadors. I did not want him to think that I was leaving because he was now getting into the most interesting part of his speech.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): I can forgive the hon. gentleman if he will give me the undertaking that he will read this speech in the morning. I recall that the House leader of the New Democratic Party spoke during second reading debate on the income tax bill on February 11, 1975, at which time he held up West Germany as a model for Canada to emulate. He said that if we had half the competence in managing our economy which West Germany has, we would be going somewhere. He stated that West Germany imports virtually all its petroleum, has the lowest rate of inflation in the world and has the fullest employment, but that this government, with all its resources, manages to maximize the worst of both evils. He said we have high inflation and virtually full unemployment.

That contention by the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby indicates that, if anything, he is even more badly informed about the West Germany economy than about the Canadian economy. Without reflecting in any way on the management of the West German economy, let me point out that whatever success the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby attributes to it has been achieved primarily by fiscal and monetary policies that are totally contrary to those advocated by the New Democratic Party.

Conversely, let me point out that the policies the NDP is advocating are almost guaranteed to ensure that the