

Unemployment

constantly seek to improve them, to search for still better standards; standards that are more accurate, more precise, more nearly approaching the absolute. Does anyone think that there ever would have been a motor car, an aeroplane or a radio if scientists had been satisfied with comparative standards? But when it comes to human behaviour we are too often content with comparative standards. Comparative standards constantly change and vary as we compare ourselves with someone else, usually to our own advantage. And when our behaviour fails to measure up to the highest we know it is very easy to rationalize it on the ground that it is not very serious, or because after all everybody is doing the same thing. But the total effect is to produce a moral disease which manifests itself in many ways, including unemployment.

I do not believe that unemployment can ever be eliminated unless we do something about those human forces. A moral disease demands a moral remedy, and the cure is, I believe, to copy a page out of the scientists' books and live up to the highest standards we know and to keep on ever striving towards standards that are still better. In this way we can become part of the cure instead of being part of the disease. That is the kind of leadership that I want for business, labour, management and industry in Canada. It is the only kind of leadership that will develop responsible enterprise and keep freedom of enterprise from degenerating into the freedom of the jungle. That is the kind of leadership I want Canada to have and to give to the world.

There is plenty of scope for each of us to exercise this kind of leadership. The employer can take another look at his books to make sure that his wage scales are the very best that his business can afford. The labourer can check his performance to see whether he is really doing his best to give an honest day's work for an honest day's pay. Retail trades can take another look to see if ways and means can be found of passing on all or part of a tax reduction to the consumer. Business organizations can check their advertising and expense accounts to make certain that the spending is absolutely necessary and not indulged in as an alternative to income tax payments. Individuals in the groups can check their demands to see if they are reasonable and responsible and not designed to get something for nothing or at the expense of someone else who is often less fortunate than themselves. These are things that we can all do without any pressure at all from government. The essence of democracy is that people and government co-operate together to solve our

[Mr. Carter.]

problems. We have little ground to criticize government if we ourselves are failing to do our part.

Finally, we need to strive for higher standards in our relations with one another as fellow Canadians and with our brothers in the outside world. Are we going to insist on creating an ever higher standard of living for ourselves, even if it means a lowering of standards in other countries?

What kind of Canada are we trying to build? Are we trying to build a Canada in which every province will use its great wealth for its own benefit or for the benefit of the nation as a whole? It is not enough to make Canada a good place for some Canadians. It must be a good place for all Canadians.

Some hon. members have pointed out that we always have full employment during wartime. It is well to remember that we have full employment in time of war only because other countries, many of whom are our competitors, have had their productive capacity destroyed and their manpower diverted to military service.

Full employment in Canada is nearly always accompanied by unemployment, misery and starvation and reduced standards of living in other countries. Bad as unemployment is, I do not think any Canadian wants to get rid of it at the expense of someone else. It is not enough to make Canada a good place in which to live. We must work to make the whole world a good place in which to live and not for Canadians only but for all peoples and all nations.

Our measure of success in this direction will depend to a great extent on the direction of our human forces and that in turn depends largely on our moral and spiritual growth. If our human forces are governed by comparative standards there will be little moral growth and little chance of success. On the other hand, if they are directed in accordance with the highest and best that is in us I am confident that not only will unemployment be eradicated but that even the miracles of science will be surpassed.

Mr. Donald M. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Speaker, this debate has now run its course for five days, and I do not pretend that at this stage it is possible to introduce new considerations into it. We of Her Majesty's loyal opposition were prepared for the vote last Wednesday, the last day this measure was up for discussion, but the debate was carried forward by others. I shall content myself at this stage with saying something concerning the situation which emerges in this debate in relation to a problem which