

Mr. GREEN: Of course it is an unfortunate situation that exists in Vancouver, and it affects the whole dominion. I think it would help a great deal if arrangements could be made to take out that particular class of young man. Surely the government could go that far. It might solve the whole difficulty if two or three hundred of these younger men could be gotten out in this way. Cannot something be done along that line?

Mr. ROGERS: I have already presented to the house a copy of a telegram which set out very clearly that single unemployed men would be upon the same footing as others in a similar position, with respect to their eligibility for youth training plans or employment offered on public works projects. I cannot go beyond that statement.

Mr. GREEN: Could steps be taken to find out now what proportion of these men in the post office and the art gallery are eligible for such training? That at least would show that steps are being taken, and I believe the fact that some move was being made by the government would help a great deal.

Mr. ROGERS: The answer to that is that the information is already available so far as the men who are in the forestry camps are concerned. All were registered while they were in these camps. It is known where they came from. It is on the basis of that information that the offer of transportation was made to them in order that they might return to their places of origin.

Mr. MacNEIL: I do not wish to be unduly insistent or to be unfair to the minister, but I fail to understand his unwillingness to accept suggestions that special action be taken to deal with an urgent situation. It is difficult to interpret the minister's remark that he recognizes the gravity of the situation in Vancouver at this time. I am receiving daily resolutions from responsible persons and organizations. For instance, I have one under my hand now, signed by Archbishop DePencier of Vancouver, who is extremely perturbed about the situation. The minister says he is relying on provincial government advice and it is purely a matter of provincial government administration; but by this vote we are contributing to the maintenance of this service, under an agreement which gives the minister some degree of supervision of the operation of the service. I fail to understand why some special effort may not now be made to meet this situation. May I point this out, that the federal government will no doubt contribute in part to the expenditure of a considerable sum of money for transportation of these men—they have already offered

it—to various other provinces. Surely, if that money is to be expended, it is reasonable to suggest that it be expended on a business-like basis, and that when a man receives transportation through the facilities of a particular service he will have the assurance of assistance to his destination and a share of any employment that may be available. He should not be simply removed to another point and cast adrift.

Another point I wish to stress is that if some action is not taken, an increasing number of men will be sent to gaol; it costs the provincial government over a dollar a day to maintain a man at the Oakalla gaol, and that is not good business, quite apart from the fact that the men are thrown into association with hardened criminals.

Here we have an employment service. Surely it is possible, with the facilities existing in this service, to set in operation some plan to meet the situation, first with regard to those who are resident in British Columbia, and then to move those who are non-residents to points where they will either be offered work or receive food and shelter under some suitable arrangement.

Mr. ROGERS: I have tried to say to my hon. friend, although I may not have succeeded, that the facilities of the Employment Service of Canada have been available from the beginning with respect to these men, are available now, and will be made available to them, but upon the same basis as such services will be made available to others who are in the same condition of unemployment. It is not possible to go beyond that.

Mr. MacINNIS: What are those conditions? If the Employment Service of Canada cannot find jobs for these men, its service is finished, is it not? Is there anything further it can do? When the minister says that the Employment Service of Canada is available to these men on the same basis as to others, what use is it to these men or to others if no jobs are available?

Mr. ROGERS: The purpose of the employment service, my hon. friend is aware, is not to create employment—

Mr. MacINNIS: I am quite aware of that. It cannot create jobs.

Mr. ROGERS: Exactly—but rather to offer assistance to place unemployed in such opportunities for employment as may be available. That service will certainly be extended to those in British Columbia.

Mr. MacINNIS: I am sure the minister will not be under any misapprehension of my