

Unemployment

received any protests over the C.B.C. television program "Scope" on Sunday last which associated the product Habitant pea soup with French Canadians in a most unfortunate manner?

Hon. J. J. McCann (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, no protests have been made to me personally, but I shall inquire from the officers of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation as to whether any have been made to them.

SUPPLY

The house resumed, from Tuesday, March 22, consideration of the motion of Mr. Harris for committee of supply, and the amendment thereto of Mrs. Fairclough, and the amendment to the amendment of Mr. Regier.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. R. R. Knight (Saskatoon): Mr. Speaker, when I moved the adjournment of the debate last night I was dealing with the subject of unemployment. The fact that there is one more point which I wish to cover must be my excuse for continuing the debate a few minutes longer. Before I go on perhaps I might recapitulate the points I had made already.

First, I had said that it was a disgraceful situation that in a country such as this we should have an unemployment situation at all. Second, I had said that the government admitted there was a state of unemployment and assumed some responsibility for it but they had done nothing about it. Third, I said that times of periodic employment were inherent under our present economic system, but I contended that even though one recognizes this the government should do something to provide a solution and should offer a long-term plan of public investment to counteract it.

I warned the government too that the unpopularity of the Conservative party in my own province of Saskatchewan during the last number of years has been due, at least in part, to the bungling of the last Conservative federal regime in regard to unemployment. It seems to me that people of my province have never forgotten or forgiven that, rightly or wrongly. I did wish to make the point that I am warning this government that in the event of similar bungling they might encounter the same political fate.

If this government is dilatory in dealing with the unemployment situation, I point out there are other governments which are not dilatory in that regard. I am thinking of the British people, for whom I have the greatest

admiration. They are people who do not appear to be influenced by whether in doing the thing they do they are making concessions to certain "isms" of one sort and another, but who tackle a problem when it arises and do the thing which they ought to do.

Purely by accident I have picked up this little paper called the *Ulster Commentary*, which is put out by the government of the part of Ireland in which I was born. I would suggest that my Conservative friends to the right might read it with some profit, because while it is a Conservative government it is a government to which the title "Progressive Conservative" might be suitably applied.

Owing to the shortness of my time I shall not quote from it, but I shall tell you one or two of the things that are being done. The government is in the process of building 47 factories. Our problems here are somewhat different, but over there they depend upon their manufactures for export. Further, legislation will be introduced to extend the powers for dealing with slum property and the improvement of housing to provide additional facilities for prospective home owners.

Another thing that government is doing that comes close to my own heart is that it has built 76 new schools, among other things. They have even gone so far in relation to the textile industry about which all of us are concerned and have actually launched an educational program among 12,000 young textile workers. The *Ulster Commentary* states:

A good proportion of young men who have had a sound practical education must be attracted to the trade if it is to maintain the essential high degree of skill and efficiency.

That is a statement issued by the committee appointed by the ministers of education and commerce.

I wish this government would take its policies from the needs and necessities of the day and the needs and necessities of the unemployed. One might suspect that sometimes this government takes its policies not from the needs of the day but from the advertisements of United States and Canadian private industry which extol the benefits of free enterprise and deplore taking any measures which might be said to smack of socialism. Indeed, I have been wondering if this government, like some of its friends, does not actually welcome a certain amount of unemployment in this country. I read an interesting statement in a financial paper the other day and although I do not have the paper here it said, and I certainly recall reading it, that a certain amount of unemployment is a good thing in our economy. Well, sir, I do not know what your opinion is, but I cannot conceive of any man in his right mind making a statement of that sort.