

presently preaching restraint, and to provide for another holiday would only contribute to the present economic malaise.

I am in favour of providing for a national holiday in February and I will be glad to support such a move when the economy regains its strength, but our present situation makes this proposal undesirable at this time.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Madam Speaker—

Mr. Yewchuk: Don't talk too long, Stanley.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I shall be only a minute or two. I fully support the bill. I deplore its not having been passed in time for Heritage Day to be celebrated in February of last year. I deplore the likelihood of its not being passed in time for Heritage Day to be celebrated this coming Monday. I have feelings about some of the arguments which have been put forward this afternoon which perhaps I had better keep to myself.

I still think that Mr. Justice Emmet Hall was fully justified in saying to the railroad workers, when he gave them their arbitrated settlement, that he would agree to the workers getting the holiday if and when parliament passed the bill.

Without further ado I say that I support the bill and hope it will pass third reading this afternoon. As a number of members to my right still want to speak on third reading, and as there is not much time for them to speak between now and five o'clock, I wish to propose a motion under Standing Order 6 (5). I move, seconded by the hon. member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow):

That this day's sitting be continued beyond five o'clock, until the proceedings on the third reading of Bill C-208, now before the House, have been concluded.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): Order, please. All those who oppose the motion will please rise.

And more than ten members having risen:

● (1640)

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): I declare the motion negatived.

Motion negatived.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Some of those ten were Tories and some were Liberals.

Mr. Guay (St. Boniface): On a point of order, I should like to make it clear to the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) that even though ten members did get up to say no to his motion, the bill could be passed before five o'clock, and if anybody knows that, he ought to know it.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Question!

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): Madam Speaker, while all of us are very proud of Canada's heritage and wish to make reference to Canada's heritage from time to time, I think this bill is simply a demonstration of laziness on the part of the government and perhaps on the part of the member who has put it forward.

Heritage Day

The Liberal party and the government have a long record of leading Canadians down the slippery slope of the disruption of the work ethic, the destruction of the belief that the people of this country have to work in order to keep the country producing. It seems to me there are many ways of celebrating Canada's heritage without having to stop eight million workers from doing a whole day's work.

The cost of eight million man days of lost work comes out to a substantial figure, and we should give this idea a good deal of thought before asking the country to face a financial loss of that sort.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) has become famous for his scoffing at the notion of work and creating the attitude that Canadians need no longer work, that the government would set up a guaranteed income plan and that all people have to do to be acceptable is to be good consumers. I have to take issue with an approach of that kind. We know that in order for Canada to remain productive and maintain its standard of living, which is still one of the best in the world, although not as good as it was, everyone must accept some responsibility for work and productivity.

If we want to celebrate our Canadian heritage I suggest we might do so on July 1. We already have a day off on that date. That is a day which commemorates Confederation, and it seems very appropriate we should celebrate Canada's heritage at that time. As things are, nothing very much happens on that day except that everybody gets a day off and perhaps some communities hold a picnic or arrange a baseball game. The holiday is not utilized to its fullest extent.

As everyone knows, the country is facing a severe inflation problem. The former minister of finance who resigned his seat a day ago, the Hon. John Turner, constantly reminded us that the way to solve our inflation problem was through increased productivity. In my view the proposal in this bill would contribute both to the cost-push type of inflation and to the demand-pull type of inflation, and neither of them are desirable. We should not be looking for ways of getting an extra day's pay without working for it.

Most of us like the idea of taking a day off once in a while, but I would point out that we already have provision for a substantial number of official holidays and I cannot but feel that the hon. member, in putting forward this bill, is catering to the natural desire of some people to be lazy.

The Economic Council of Canada in its last report suggested that because of the decreased birth rate which followed the postwar baby boom fewer people are entering the work force today. We are at the point at which we must decide whether Canada wishes to continue to experience growth in its gross national product or whether it is satisfied to experience no growth. If we choose a growth rate of 5 per cent, for example, it will be necessary to bring in some 300,000 new immigrants a year to do the work which will be required or, alternatively to attract 300,000 women, not presently in the work force, to enter the work force.

Today we are suffering from severe unemployment, but if some growth occurs in our economy over the next five years the Economic Council it suggests is conceivable that