

Proposed Committee on Unemployment

took place in Germany in the last few years. This undoubtedly will give our government some food for thought in respect of our problems here in Canada.

These excerpts are as follows:

West Germany throbs with its fabulous recovery while the East Germans under Soviet rule are on the brink of starvation . . . In the Ruhr, bomb-shattered steel mills glow once more through the long winter nights. Germans who were once glad to sell their prized possessions for a few packs of cigarettes now have one of Europe's strongest currencies in their pockets. Shops are loaded with consumer goods and crowded with substantial-looking buyers.

Germany's rebirth is the kind of economic miracle Americans can understand. At a time when other European nations were leaning towards socialism, Germany plumped for free enterprise . . . "Turn the people and the money loose, and they will make the country strong." As a result, the free world is now blessed, on the one hand, by its strongest European bulwark against communism—and confronted, on the other, with a new trade competitor who has come up so fast that nobody knows quite what to do about it.

Believing that "labour and management must be unified into one big group that depends on the same success," Nordhoff called a meeting of his shabby work force. "I'm afraid I gave them a stiff shock," says he. "I told them their working methods and production were miserable. It was taking us 400 man-hours to produce one car. I told them we would cut this to 100 hours. They laughed at me. But today we do that."

To make the economy grow, economics minister Erhard ended rationing, removed controls, gave industry tax concessions to permit rebuilding and expansion . . .

Last year gross national output hit a new high of \$35 billion, 40 per cent above the 1936 figure for all of Germany. Items: Chemical output up 102 per cent over 1936; electrical equipment up 238 per cent; coal up 20 per cent; shipyards are now building 633,904 gross tons, second only to Britain's.

While West Germany has had to absorb 10 million refugees and expellees, unemployment is relatively low (1,000,000 last week), and the government has hopes of creating some 250,000 new jobs this year.

Anyone who says that free enterprise is the cause of the trouble in our economic situation should look at what has been done in Germany under a free enterprise system. Our problem here is one of distribution; and I think that as time goes on people across this country are going to wake up to the fact that there is a way out, and a way in which our goods can be distributed. They will realize there is a way to maintain our freedom as well as the distribution of our goods. And they will be looking to those of us sitting in this corner of the chamber, the Social Credit group, to lead the way.

Mr. Jean-François Pouliot (Temiscouata): Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend is very optimistic when he says that the people will look to Social Credit policies to relieve unemployment in this country.

Mr. Knowles: The hon. member used to sit over in that corner, himself.

Mr. Pouliot: Oh, yes, but it was under different circumstances. It is not the place where one sits that counts; it is what is said from that seat.

Everyone has expressed his opinion about unemployment, a very sad thing and deplored by all. What is necessary is to offer the true facts as they are and to offer as well the best suggestions to improve labour conditions in this country. The Minister of Labour (Mr. Gregg) and the Acting Prime Minister (Mr. Howe) have told the house how much concerned the government is about labour problems. They have said that they missed no opportunity to see to it that all those who are capable of working and willing to work should earn their living at all times of the year in this country. There is one thing that surprised me in the remarks of the hon. member who sponsored the amendment. He based his speech upon a memorandum or joint submission on unemployment to the government of Canada by the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada and the Canadian Congress of Labour. The representatives of those large unions came to Ottawa to make representations to the government. If I were to express my opinion about that memorandum I would use the following biblical phrase:

And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?

They see the mote in their neighbour's eye, and they do not see the beam in their own. Then there is another quotation:

Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

My contention is that the labour unions must assume great responsibility in matters of unemployment. Very often there are men who are unable to work because of the dictates of union leaders. There are several occurrences of this nature of which I have knowledge. Very often I have had to fight the unions in order to protect union members.

During the railway strike in 1949 or 1950 there was a meeting of the railwaymen in my home town. I said to them what I have just said here. One man came to me after and said, "That is right, Jean-François; it is true; you were right." I would have preferred to be wrong, but I had to fight the union leaders for the protection of the men. I remember saying once to the former minister of labour, Mr. Mitchell, that it was often important and sometimes necessary to speak to the members of the union over the heads of their leaders because in that way we were often better understood.