

inquiry dealing with unemployment and the methods of calculating statistics on unemployment.

Senator Perrault: Honourable senators, I would not like any member of this chamber to presume that this alleged discrepancy in unemployment figures constitutes a suggestion that the government is being less than candid with the Canadian people.

There are, of course, various ways to measure unemployment. There is the statistical survey of unemployment, taken monthly as honourable senators are aware. The question is along these general lines: Are you out of work and would you like to work? I think the survey ages range from 14 to 65 years, but perhaps that is now changed. Then there is another figure developed from those registered at unemployment insurance offices for unemployment insurance benefits. There are, then, two different types of figures.

When we compare unemployment in Canada with that in some other nations, we should also bear in mind that in some countries only those are listed as unemployed who actually make the physical move to an employment office established by the government and fill in a form to state that they are actively seeking work. And so there are certain situations which are certainly not comparable with any unemployment figures that we develop in Canada.

The government has not misused its statistics. The honourable senator asked for information about those receiving unemployment insurance benefits, how many persons were registered for unemployment, and so on, and that is somewhat different from the monthly statistical survey taken by the agencies of the government involved in doing surveys of the labour force.

Senator Flynn: May I suggest to the government leader that he should not get excited about the comments made by Senator Phillips. I say that because as far as statistics are concerned, if he had been in the other place or here when Senator Martin was operating the "Martin Bureau of Statistics on Unemployment" he would have been even more confused than he is today. I remember when Senator Martin used to comment "Tory times are hard times," and I get a chuckle just wondering what he would say today with the figures on unemployment being what they are.

Senator Langlois: He has been gone a long time.

Senator Flynn: His memory is still very vivid in my mind.

Senator Langlois: You never forget the beatings you got at his hands.

Senator Flynn: He hasn't forgotten those he got from me.

Senator Langlois: Slaps on the back, that is all.

SOLAR ENERGY APPLICATION BILL

SECOND READING—DEBATE CONTINUED

The Senate resumed from yesterday the debate on the motion of Senator Austin for the second reading of Bill C-309, respecting the domestic and industrial use of solar energy.

Senator Flynn: Honourable senators, when I adjourned the debate it was to provide the Leader of the Government with an opportunity to give replies to some of the questions put by me and by other senators who participated in this debate, namely, Senator Grosart and Senator Hicks.

Senator Perrault: Will you allow me to make a statement, senator? Are you prepared to resume your place?

Senator Flynn: Yes, I will when I am finished, but first I want to say that I still believe the bill as it comes to us cannot receive second reading unless we have something specific on which to make a decision. The bill as it is certainly should not receive approval in principle. Now I yield to the Leader of the Government for his statement.

Senator Perrault: Honourable senators, I know the sponsor of this bill will wish to reply in greater detail to some of the very pertinent observations made by Senator Grosart and the honourable the Leader of the Opposition in yesterday's debate, as well as those made by the Honourable Senator Hicks.

At the outset I want to reply to the question as to whether this is a government bill. Of course it is not a government bill; it is a public bill in the hands of a private member. It enjoyed a substantial amount of support in the other chamber, involving not only support from the majority of government members but, I understand, support from other parties as well.

Secondly, the sponsor of this proposed piece of legislation pointed out that in his view a number of defects in the bill existed. But what we are really talking about in any second reading debate is the principle of the bill, and, honourable senators, it seems to me, and I think it is a fair assessment of this proposed measure—

Senator Flynn: You mean to the government?

Senator Perrault: I am not saying this as an official statement by the government. I am speaking—

Senator Flynn: But that is what I was asking you to do.

Senator Perrault: Senator, just let me conclude my remarks, will you?

The principle of this bill is to be found in clause 4, sub-clauses (a) and (b), which are as follows:

The Institute may

(a) encourage and promote the establishment in Canada of an industry producing solar energy equipment and parts;

(b) undertake intensive research leading to the development of a technology that will permit the use of solar energy for domestic and industrial purposes as a viable alternative to non-renewable resources—

I think we all support the principle that we should have development of solar energy equipment and parts, and we support the principle of research leading to the development of a technology.

It seems to me that what we should do is get this bill into committee as quickly as possible so that all of the important questions which have been asked by the opposition and others