

The Budget—Mr. Winch

The city of Vancouver is the third largest in Canada. In the eleven adjoining municipalities comprising what is known as greater Vancouver there is a population of approximately one million. According to figures released by the chairman of the metropolitan committee in charge of this program it will have provided employment to 2,300 people as of January 3. Any measure that provides employment is welcome but that amount of employment in relation to a population of that size is an indication of the inadequacy of the program. I give the government all credit for its attempts at long range planning as mentioned in the baby budget. I believe these measures will be of benefit but it is the immediate situation which must be of vital concern to us. The problem will not be solved as long as the government maintains the attitude that the unemployed are statistics. As a Toronto newspaper editorial pointed out, the unemployed are not statistics but people.

When we have criticized the government for its lack of policies, planning and legislation we are often confronted with the question: O.K., what would you do? The government is supposed to have the answers but nevertheless I admit this is a logical question. There are a couple of things I wish to mention and perhaps in the time at my disposal I shall have an opportunity of developing only one thought. This is a measure that could be speedily undertaken to assist in meeting the present critical situation.

My first suggestion appears to be a natural one. The government should create confidence in the minds of Canadian people and businessmen and give encouragement to businessmen and industry by following through with its declared policy of buying Canadian goods. When the government buys goods it should buy Canadian goods if the specifications are those required and if the price is relatively competitive. I think it is axiomatic that that is what is supposed to be done but I am certain it is not done to the degree it could be with the result that there is a lack of confidence on the part of Canadians and little encouragement to Canadian businessmen and industries. Of course, if you purchase from outside when you could purchase in Canada there is additional unemployment in our country. As a first step the government should rectify that situation where it exists.

It is only a year ago that I asked the then minister of veterans affairs why it was that in our major veterans hospitals the laundry was sent out and not done on the premises as is the case with most large non-veterans hospitals. I was told that it was

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customary to follow the procedure of sending out the laundry. It is apparently no longer customary because the government has introduced a policy in large veterans hospitals of permitting them to purchase their own laundry equipment. I am pleased to note that.

During the Christmas recess I learned that Shaughnessy military hospital in Vancouver is purchasing laundry equipment. I then received a phone call advising me that although there was a Canadian tender on supplies and equipment which they guaranteed would be produced in Ontario factories to the extent of 80 per cent the contract had been let to a United States firm under which 100 per cent of the equipment will be produced in that country. It is hypocritical of the government and its supporters to talk about the responsibility of industry and labour in this area when the government would allow a contract of this type to go to the United States. That is all I will say about the matter. The government is being unfair to the Canadian people, to industry and labour in allowing this practice to continue.

I hope that whoever is the watchdog for this phase of government administration will see to it that the government purchases Canadian goods if they meet the required specifications and are available at a relatively competitive price. The work would then be given to Canadians.

There is another matter on which I wish to lay stress which I feel could give great impetus to employment in British Columbia if we were to remove some of the unnecessary red tape and regulations applying to exports from that province.

This is something which will help us and our great timber industry. Since I require some 10 to 15 minutes to go into the matter, and since under standing orders you have to put the motion within 30 seconds, I hope that I may be able to complete this phase of my remarks at the next opportunity.

Mr. Speaker: Order. It being 9.45 o'clock it is my duty, pursuant to section 4 of standing order 58, as provisionally amended, to interrupt these proceedings and put forthwith the question on the subamendment now before the house.

The house divided on the amendment to the amendment (Mr. Regier) which was negatived on the following division:

YEAS

Messrs:

Badanai	Bourget
Batten	Bourque
Benidickson	Carter