

*Unemployment*

White (Hastings-  
Frontenac) Winters  
White (Middlesex East) Wylie  
White (Waterloo South) Yuill—183.

**Mr. Speaker:** At eight o'clock the house will resume consideration of the business which was interrupted at five o'clock.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

**AFTER RECESS**

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

**SUPPLY**

The house resumed 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. H. A. Bryson (Humboldt-Melfort):** Mr. Speaker, at five o'clock I was pointing out the reluctance of the government to admit that there is a serious unemployment situation in this country. As a matter of fact, speakers on the government side of the house who have taken part in this debate have spent literally hours in an abortive sort of way trying to explain away the seriousness of the unemployment situation that exists in this country at the present time. They have marshalled endless sets of figures in an attempt to justify their argument that unemployment in Canada is no worse this year than it was last year.

Regardless of how many sets of figures, no matter how many surveys are made, regardless of how many employment categories the government uses, no matter how many months of this year they compare with months of last year, they keep coming up with a disastrously high figure as far as unemployment is concerned. I am sure the government are reluctant even to believe their own figures.

We have today in Canada the greatest number of unemployed since the end of the war. I am sure also the government will be trying to devise other formulae and other sets of figures in an effort to come up with something they want to come up with, because the figures and formulae they are using now keep coming up with the wrong answers.

I do not think the question of whether there are 300,000 or 600,000 unemployed in this country is of such great importance. That kind of argument is just about as logical as trying to convince a fan dancer

that 60 below zero is twice as cold as 30 below zero. She is not going to be greatly impressed with that kind of logic or that kind of argument, because both temperatures are equally disastrous as far as she is concerned.

The minister spoke of a sample survey which is being carried on by the Department of Labour, and mentioned that this survey was of great importance. Through these surveys the department is able to ascertain how many people are not working in Canada. Then they claim the survey is useful in other ways as well, because they are able to find out why these people are not working. I wish the minister would tell us who these people are who are out in the field making these weekly surveys. I would like to know how much these people are paid for doing this work. It must be on a per capita basis. I say that for this reason. Last year I had the opportunity of watching one of these surveys being taken weekly throughout the summer. The person who was carrying out this important job of finding out why people were not working kept going into this one establishment every week. When I investigated I found that it was a home for old men.

It seems to me that making jobs of that kind is simply another excuse for appointing a lot of political hatchetmen who are strategically located throughout the length and breadth of this country. If the government spent as much time and effort trying to find work for people as they spend in finding out why they are not working, possibly we would be a lot better off.

Apparently the government have nothing to offer in the way of an over-all comprehensive scheme or program that will come up with a permanent solution for this serious unemployment problem. They are quite prepared to go on pinning their hopes on unemployment insurance doing the job. I will admit that the minister has intimated that he is concerned about unemployment and possibly he has some ideals in respect to this problem; but I would submit to him that ideals will materialize only when there is some application of practical ideas. I suggest that one of the most practical ideas would be to provide jobs for the unemployed in this country.

I was thoroughly amused and then completely amazed at the antics of the Conservative party, and the concern they are showing for the unemployed in this country. I do not think many of us have forgotten the attempt made by that party to solve a similar unemployment situation which existed in this country not many decades ago. There is one other