

The Address—Hon. Paul Martin

"we have to look at the increase in employment, a modest increase". What the hon. gentleman fails to do is place the emphasis where President Kennedy and those responsible for the administration of the department of labour in the United States are placing it by saying that as long as one man is out of work, that situation becomes the concern of government.

Mr. Starr: That has always been our position.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): The Minister of Labour glosses over the number who are out of work. He keeps referring to the positive aspects of the situation, limited though those positive aspects are. I say this to the Minister of Labour. In face of the fact that over half a million men and women are out of work as shown by the figures I have produced, this government, not having brought forward policies in keeping with its assurances in the last federal election, warrants, as it is going to receive just as soon as an election takes place, the condemnation of the people of Canada for allowing this social and economic problem to continue and extend year after year without taking effective action.

What policies have been brought forward by this government to deal with the situation? All it has done, in the short term, is to present us with the annual winter works program. Each year the minister makes a slight modification to that program, a revision suggested by the mayors of Canada or by members of the opposition. But the winter works program is not in itself the kind of program which will take care of our unemployment difficulties. It is not the kind of remedy that goes to the root of the problem. I have in my hands a resolution passed by the Windsor city council on August 2, 1961.

An hon. Member: Go back to 1956.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): If you go back to 1956 you will find that was a period of prosperity in Canada. You will find that that was a period when Canada enjoyed a high level of trade with other countries. You will find it was a period when Canada enjoyed high prestige among other nations of the world. I can tell the hon. member that though we cannot go back to 1956, we are soon going back to a government which created the conditions of 1956.

Here is the recommendation, a positive proposal made by the Windsor city council. It is addressed to the government and to all members of parliament in an effort to bring about a solution to the problem. I have seen no reaction by the government to this

[Mr. Martin (Essex East).]

proposal. It embodies some of the things which the Leader of the Opposition in particular has been urging in this house for a number of years. I intend to read the resolution and I invite the minister, having in mind the unemployment which continues in the city of Windsor, to tell us now what this government intends to do to implement this proposal. I ask him to tell us what it intends to do about the recommendations made by Professor Bladen over a year ago, recommendations which are now in the hands of this government but in connection with which no progress at all has been made, just as no progress has been made with regard to recommendations made by other royal commissions set up for the purpose of diverting public attention from the immediate issues.

Here is the resolution:

That the following recommendations of the greater Windsor industrial commission regarding its study of the United Kingdom local employment act 1960 and the possible application of certain of its features in Canada, be endorsed and the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities be advised accordingly:

(a) That the designation "surplus manpower areas" be changed as it is negative in character to "development district" as in the United Kingdom.

(b) That the government of Canada grant development districts, now called surplus manpower areas or double depreciation areas, extra allowance depreciation rather than accelerated depreciation. This could be offered for any two of the first four years, in the case of a new industry or in the case of an existing plant manufacturing a new product.

(c) That the government of Canada authorize the industrial development bank to make low interest loans in development districts for periods of up to five years to industries manufacturing a new product or existing industry expanding where additional employment will be provided.

(d) That the government of Canada authorize the industrial development bank to defer interest payments on such loans to industry in development districts.

(e) That industries purchasing newly serviced land and erecting new premises be permitted to depreciate services such as water, sewers, roads (all local improvements) when such are included as part of the land purchased price.

(f) That the government of Canada, when in their wisdom, find it necessary to establish pilot plants for the production of products not previously manufactured in Canada, and of benefit to the Canadian economy, establish them only in development districts.

Those are proposals put forward by the municipal government in a city which has had a large number of unemployed for some time, particularly since this government came into office.

Mr. Starr: Since you became a member.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): The Minister of Labour has made an interjection. Let him tell us what study the government has given to a proposal of that kind.