

through the municipalities, and I would impress upon the Minister of Labour the importance of never putting his signature to any document approving the expenditure of a single dollar unless it is for a proper purpose and will be accounted for.

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: Will my honourable friend go a little further and say what he thinks is a proper purpose?

Hon. Mr. CALDER: I can give you a thousand proper purposes.

Hon. Mr. WILLOUGHBY: It is obvious that we are not going to get through with this Bill to-night, and I would move that the Committee rise and report progress.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Would you allow me a question?

Hon. Mr. WILLOUGHBY: Certainly.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Money will be furnished by the Federal Government only when there exists an exceptional condition which is beyond the powers of a province. Now, who will be the judge of that exceptional condition? I have put this question to the honourable the Minister of Labour (Hon. Mr. Robertson), but he has had so many other questions to answer that he has not yet answered this one. Have we in the Labour Department, or in some other department, data bearing on the condition of unemployment during, say, the last five years? I am speaking of towns of 5,000 and more, and of normal conditions; not of a situation in which there are tens of thousands of people flocking around a centre like Winnipeg. Have we any idea of the normal state of unemployment during ordinary, fair years, so that by comparison we may know what is an exceptional condition in this town or that?

Probably my honourable friend will answer that the Provincial Governments will judge whether or not an exceptional condition exists in any of those centres. I agree with him when he says that \$20,000,000 would not go very far. My fear is that municipality after municipality and town after town will try to load on this Government a share of charges that do not belong to it. Towns can take care of the ordinary number of unemployed during the year. It is seldom that a province is called upon to help a municipality. Public-spirited citizens, charitable institutions, and organizations of all kinds are asked to contribute even before the municipality is called upon. I fear that if there is no means of comparison as to what is an exceptional condition, municipalities from the Atlantic to the Pacific will

be forwarding requests for relief from a condition which otherwise they would take care of themselves. The kernel of the difficulty is, what is an exceptional condition? I have asked my honourable friend (Hon. Mr. Robertson) if he has anything—I am not so much interested in seeing it, but if he has it he can give it to us—that will indicate the normal, natural state of unemployment during the various seasons of the last five years. When demands are made, the duty of scrutinizing conditions may devolve upon him. My impression is that the demands will come through the provinces. I cannot conceive that appeals stating the requirements will be made to the Department of Labour through the municipalities. I should imagine that they would be centralized in the hands of the various executives of the country. If this is so, will the Federal Government accept the statements from the various provinces without sifting the merits of the claims made by the various municipalities? With thousands of municipalities throughout the country all anxious to draw on this fund, we must realize what it will mean to hand out money right and left. I believe we are all at one in thinking that the Federal Government should help, through this fund, wherever there is an exceptional condition of unemployment. We are providing money and employment in order to help solve the unemployment problem when it is beyond the capacity of the municipality or of the province.

I have not repeated all the questions that I put to my honourable friend. He will find them in Hansard to-morrow morning. Probably there are some that he could answer now. But again I put the most important one: who will have the last word in deciding what is an exceptional condition?

Hon. Mr. McMEANS: Winnipeg has been mentioned frequently in the discussion. As I have not the exact figures, I hesitate to say anything on this subject. I will try to have the figures to-morrow. I may say now, however, that the situation in Winnipeg is very acute. I doubt whether any honourable gentleman realizes fully the seriousness of the situation prevailing in that city last year, or can have any idea of what it will be during the coming winter. The city has exhausted practically all its resources in an endeavour to cope with the problem. Meetings of the unemployed have been held time and again in front of the City Hall, violence has been threatened, and the police have been called out. This condition, in my opinion, has led many people to join the Communists. In