

Economic Conditions in Rural Communities

for cards are coming in at the rate of 50 to 100 a day, so people are concerned.

Mr. Alexander: What about the 668,000 people who have no cash?

Mr. Danson: This is not a panacea for all problems, but it is part of the cash flow psychology. If a storekeeper has cash as a result of not taking credit cards, he can use that cash to do his buying on much better terms and this should make things far more competitive. This is a concern which I did want to highlight, the question of cash flow, and I am only expressing it as a concern because I think it is destructive to the economy.

One of the other things that concerns me, Mr. Speaker, is the problem of summer employment for students. I was speaking to my son and my daughter-in-law to be, who is from Hamilton—

Mr. Alexander: Tell him to vote for—

Mr. Danson: I am going to be back next time, my friend, but we will miss you terribly. Of course, I will visit you when I visit my daughter-in-law in Hamilton. She is an arts student at York University and when we were discussing the problem of jobs and youth today, she pointed out that the universities are full of students in the general arts, political science and economics courses who do not know what they will do for a living. They wonder what we are going to do about it. We are spending an immense amount of our resources on education, not uselessly but not specifically either. These young people say that they did not know what they wanted in Grade XIII and their counsellors and guidance teachers did not know, either. When we look at the problem this summer we will have to look beyond it as well to understand what we are building—a generation of educated children with high expectations but no place to go. Perhaps that disturbs me more than anything.

An hon. Member: That is the just society.

Mr. Danson: The students in technical schools and in the sciences do have a specific place to go but the students with general arts degrees, for which we are spending tremendous amounts of money, have no place to go when they are through. This is an area which is provincial and not federal, but nevertheless we cannot help but be concerned and I do not think we should be afraid to deal with it.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Richard): The hon. member for Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain (Mr. Southam).

Mr. Alexander: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Richard): The time of the hon. member has expired.

An hon. Member: But he has not made his speech yet.

Mr. Alexander: In view of the fact that the hon. parliamentary secretary raised the point about the meeting between the federal members and the Metro Council, I wonder if, with the unanimous consent of the House, he

[Mr. Danson.]

could elaborate on that. He said that some constructive things had been decided upon, so perhaps he could let the cat out of the bag and let us know what occurred at that important meeting.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Richard): Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Danson: Mr. Speaker, there was no cat in the bag. It was a preliminary meeting and the mayor had some specific proposals which were rather interesting. I had to leave to catch a plane before the meeting was over, but I am looking forward to the further report of my colleagues. There was a considerable amount of enthusiasm for the reinstatement of winter works programs, assistance to the municipalities, and additional welfare benefits. The question of grants versus loans was also discussed, as was the new loans program to assist municipalities.

This brings up an interesting problem in the case of the city of Toronto because although they want grants, these are more expensive to Toronto than loans. Ontario gets back only 80 cents of every tax dollar it contributes to the federal treasury as a result of the equalization grants.

● (5:30 p.m.)

Quite properly, proudly and justifiably, we enjoy a greater income. We hope to distribute some of this to the less favoured parts of the country so that they may become prosperous. I think that is a reasonable summary of the meetings. Certainly it is not over. When I left it, it was hoped we would meet again in one week so that the programs which have been referred to could be further discussed. In my opinion that sort of trilevel communication is very helpful. Perhaps the hon. member would like to do something like that in Hamilton so that the local people could talk about such matters.

Mr. Alexander: They have heard that sort of thing before. We want action.

Mr. R. R. Southam (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I feel that it is my urgent duty to rise in my place today and lend my full support to this motion condemning the government for the very serious plight in which our people find themselves. It is a plight brought about by the maladministration of this federal government.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Southam: I was interested in hearing several hon. members on the government side say that this was one of the most all-encompassing motions ever to be presented to the House. Why should we not present such a motion? As the hon. member for Hamilton West (Mr. Alexander) pointed out so well a few minutes ago, you can look at any part of the economy and you will find difficulties. So we had to bring in an all-encompassing motion. We have in Canada at present the highest degree of unemployment that we have experienced since the dirty thirties;