

to tell him: "My friend, sit down in your house, smoke your pipe, don't make a move and you will get \$150." But if he tries to help himself, this plan developed by mad people—and I weigh each of my words—will take some money away from him. No wonder these people are fed up. This is only because these people, although they are aged, are still willing to go on working to earn a living even in small part-time jobs because they are still ready to help themselves.

Mr. Speaker, our philosophy in this House is negative. With our bills, individual initiative is discouraged. What about young people? Let me deal with the opposite end of the age structure. What about our students? If a student has worked all summer to help himself and his parents and applies for a federal or provincial scholarship, he is told on a nice little grey slip of paper, because this is rather sad news, "In view of the income you earned during the summer, we regret to inform you that you are not eligible for a scholarship. However, you are eligible for a loan on such and such terms." All this because he worked all summer and received an income. The other student who is in the same grade and lives on the same street but was unable to find a job or did not want to work—both cases are possible—will ask for scholarship and he stands a pretty fair chance of obtaining a full scholarship because he did not have any income during the summer.

Mr. Speaker, this case is similar to that of aged persons—the student who wants to help himself is not entitled to a scholarship. The student who takes life easy or does not get an opportunity is discouraged; he becomes worn out and dependent on others as the aged person.

What about the person who is between the young and the aged, that is the unemployed? Some say that there are 500,000, others 600,000. Some Liberals maintain that under the Conservative government they were more numerous, while the Conservatives say that under the Liberals there were more. Then, while they are having a good time counting them, I should say: Why don't you name them? If we must enjoy ourselves, let us have a ball. But they forget to try and find solutions, and then to analyse this matter.

What happens in the case of the unemployed? First, they make complicated laws, just as stupid as the minister who introduced them. Second, they close local offices and centralize to the extreme throughout the province. In fact, all cheques must go through some electronic machine. They create local, then regional services in Sherbrooke, Trois-Rivières and Quebec City. And what happens to the citizen in Victoriaville who is stuck with unemployment?

**Mr. De Bané:** Yes.

**Mr. Fortin:** The member for Matane (Mr. De Bané) says "Yes" because the same situation can be found in his constituency.

I was saying that the unemployed from Victoriaville must dial a long distance call to Sherbrooke at his own expense. He must go to Sherbrooke to appear before an arbitration commission often at his own expense. He must complete forms which he often does the wrong way because of a lack of communication. As a result anyone

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who became unemployed on November 1—in the mad system we were imposed— is still waiting for his first cheque on January 1. Chances are he did not receive his cards regularly either.

Mr. Speaker, the jobless in such a situation goes to his member of Parliament or any official in his union to make the best of it and the problem is immediately settled. I wonder how it is that a member of Parliament is able to settle a problem immediately whereas the poor taxpayer cannot succeed but must wait for his cheque. Is it that only Parliament members are able to handle a civil servant that should be at the service of all citizens without any distinction?

It often happens that the jobless worker entitled to unemployment allowances receives a letter from the local unemployment insurance centre worded as follows: Dear Sir: In view of current administration problems and the substantial amendments made to the Unemployment Insurance Act and in view of the fact that an increasing number of people are becoming eligible for unemployment allowances it is our regret to inform you that we are not in a position to pay your allowances immediately.

Sometimes, he is the father of five, six or seven children. His situation may appear funny tonight, but suppose you take his place? He is told in the last paragraph: In the meantime, call at your local social welfare office where, under an agreement between Ottawa and Quebec, you will probably get temporary help, even though a refund may be required eventually.

So the unemployed potters along. In the meantime, he has exhausted his savings for he was a labourer. There are thousands of people in a similar position in this country. Therefore, he goes to the local office and falls on his knees before the officials, stoops, begs for a meager allowance, signs a refund pledge and gets \$300 which he has soon spent, and then the unemployment insurance benefit arrives. What happens then, thanks to the great generosity of all those officials who have a good time counting the unemployed instead of trying to settle their problems? When the unemployed man receives his cheque, he looks at it carefully, has it photocopied in order to keep some remembrance of the government's generosity, signs it, and then brings it to the social welfare office to repay his loan.

Mr. Speaker, that is how a man's initiative is stifled, how he becomes dependent on the state and a radical. I shall say bluntly that the number of people who become dependent on the various levels of government is ever increasing and that the number of those who have to pay the costs for administration of the various levels of government and to support such a large number of unemployed is becoming smaller and smaller, with the result that the governments are facing a problem of overtaxation. Their income is not sufficient and they ask for wage increases. Then we are running around like mad yelling that this disaster is caused by inflation, unemployment, Liberals, Progressive Conservatives, English-speaking Canadians, French-speaking Canadians or the unemployed.

Finally, the number of Liberal members decreased from 147 to 109 and the Progressive Conservatives also