

### *Employment Programs*

He added that, given another chance, he would no doubt act in the same way, but there would be less unemployment.

He recalled the appeals for co-operation addressed to all social levels by his government last year in the thick of his fight against inflation and said that he did not get the co-operation he had anticipated. "Voluntary co-operation was not a great success", Mr. Trudeau said, adding that should another inflationary thrust occur the population, both workers and employers, might co-operate better.

Mr. Speaker, that quotation from an article shows that far from being about to find solutions, we see them becoming increasingly remote since we admit that nothing can be done. That is hardly encouraging for the population which, in the meantime, continues to stagnate, to have a hard time making both ends meet and to complain about its administrators.

And yet, Mr. Speaker, this government does not want to recognize that this problem does exist. They say there is no solution.

But when we of the Social Credit try to oblige, if necessary, the government to consider potential concrete solutions, we just cannot accept—and our constituents are becoming increasingly dissatisfied—that the government brush away the solutions we are suggesting, that is increasing the purchasing power through easier credit and providing easier credit terms for industries. We claim that this would be very well received among the population and that this would also be a long-term solution to unemployment.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to point out that if we wish to arrive at full employment several solutions are required. One of these days we will have to admit that the benefits of modern scientific progress, of automation, of technology, should be orientend toward the well-being of the population.

Having recognized the fact that we should not frown on progress, if the machine replaces man we will have to consider increasingly the development of programs to create a society with more and more spare time and less and less work.

Therefore, if we wish to reach full employment, we should seriously consider the possibility of reducing the working hours of each worker, while providing him with a sufficient income so that he may enjoy a minimum of well-being if not of comfort.

Mr. Speaker, this could be done immediately. I would like to give quite a striking example, that of the Post Office Department. We know that a great number of people have been complaining about slow mail deliveries for a year or two. Everybody is wondering why with such a high unemployment rate we are unable to obtain at the Post Office, for example, a sufficient number of jobs to avoid the present delays.

It is absolutely abnormal, for example, that a letter from Ottawa to the Champlain constituency 200 or 300 miles from here would take a week, 10 or 15 days to reach the addressee. We are given as a reason that some mail services do not operate on Saturdays and Sundays.

Mr. Speaker, if this is due to a lack of employees, enough should be hired by the Post Office Department to give a constant and continuous service, even on Satur-

[Mr. Matte.]

days and Sundays, precisely in order to promote a very good postal service while increasing the number of jobs.

If some people are against working more than 40 or 44 hours a week, and I certainly understand them, so much the better! Let us give others the opportunity of working during the remaining hours of the week. For instance, it might even be advisable to aim at having 200 people work 20 hours a week instead of having half that number work 40 hours.

All those possibilities should be considered but sooner or later—and of course I prefer that it be sooner than later—we shall have to find real solutions. We shall have to reach the true causes of this situation.

We shall only find them when we analyse the real potential of the country, based on all kinds of natural resources and on our potential of human intelligence.

• (4:10 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker, when we realize that we are one of the richest countries of the world, with a population of 23 million people spread out over an area greater than Europe where there are 600 million people, and that Canada is bigger than the United States with their population of 200 million, it is inadmissible that we should meet poor people while, theoretically, they are the richest in the world.

But, in order that this unheard of wealth may really be put to use for the citizen, one must reach the very logical proposal that it is a matter of making financially possible what is physically possible. Some have said and continue to say that it is merely a slogan but on the contrary, Mr. Speaker, it is a sensible and economically logical principle. And if ever this principle were to be applied, with all the raw material that we possess, the manpower that we have—and nobody can deny that because the most serious problem in Canada at the present time is that too many workers are chasing too few jobs—we would be surprised at the results. Since we possess all that, Mr. Speaker, what else do we need to put to use and develop these natural resources that are now available? The only thing we are running short of is money to finance these projects. Then why not take time and see that all those things that are physically possible become financially possible?

I have said time and time again that bridges, roads, hospitals, or anything else for that matter, are not built with bills and coins but rather with materials, labour and engineering. With these three elements, why bring in the money element? Piles of dollars cannot support a bridge; this is not the way to do it, Mr. Speaker. Better to use concrete, steel, for these materials are much more appropriate. Is that what we are short of? We have the world's richest iron ore mines in Northern Quebec. We have the human resources ready to go to work, thousands of unemployed people who ask nothing better than to work for the well-being of all our population.

There is no lack of it. Therefore, the only thing missing is the firm will to give the individuals of this country the opportunity of putting their intelligence, their strength,