

Proposed Committee on Unemployment

around and find the answer as so many other countries must at the present time. We can have another war, but that would be a very hasty answer. It might be the quickest cure, but it is certainly not the one any hon. member in this house would advocate. Certainly I would be the last one to suggest it.

It is claimed we do not require foreign capital. I happened to discuss that matter with a group the other day, and they claimed we should not have foreign and United States capital coming into Canada. I am rather amazed that so many people should insist upon that, especially people who call themselves socialists, for we find on page 2 of the *Financial Times* of February 5 the following advertisement:

Department of Mineral Resources, Province of Saskatchewan
Public Notice
Petroleum and Natural Gas Leases (receiving sealed bids).

Whom do they want to sell them to? Anyone who will buy them, including buyers from the United States. And now, Mr. Speaker, the deepening of the St. Lawrence waterway has been a long time in coming. More than twenty-odd years ago I gave a short address on this subject. The project is a practical reality, but it is not going to solve the unemployment problem facing us at the present moment. That is a problem we must solve now. The 100,000 homes which will be built over the coming year is not going to put 400,000 men back at work immediately. That will be a slow process. The building of sport fields and cultural institutions, schools and hospitals and all the other public facilities we require so badly in this country is also something for the future, but it is not the answer to the problem facing us today.

If we are going to have the small businessman continue in existence, if we are going to encourage capital to continue in this country, as is so earnestly desired, we have to solve this problem at the present time. The men and women we are discussing want work. They do not want anything else. They are interested only in solving the problem now, not at the next session of this house. I think if we are to be in the position that we consider we should be in, as men who call ourselves parliamentarians we should find the answer to that question.

I have just one or two words here in conclusion, Mr. Speaker. There is a real reason for unemployment. First it must be understood. From what I have heard various men say in this house from time to time, I am sure that private enterprise has solved the problem of production. As mute evidence of that fact we have a surplus of butter, of

machinery, a stockpiling of textiles, salmon, canned meats, cheese and other products. The Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Sinclair) the other day suggested to us that the British Columbia fishermen solved their own problem to a degree by sending a trade mission to Britain to see whether or not they could buy some British goods and possibly, in the course of so doing, sell our Canadian canned salmon. They did an excellent job, as only British Columbians can. They went to Britain and bought fishing nets, trawlers and the various paraphernalia they need in the fishing industry, and they induced the Britishers, in turn, to take canned salmon. It was not a barter deal. However, it might almost be suggested that it developed as a barter deal.

I do not think it is the responsibility of the wheat growers of Saskatchewan, the fishermen of British Columbia or the fruit growers of any area, no matter which it might be, to go on a trading trip to any other nation in the world. That is what this government has been elected to do. We are supposed to find markets for these products, not to send small individual groups to do it. I respect the fishermen for what they did. I respect any group for trying to sell its own goods abroad. But every time they do that they are taking dollars and cents from their own group, money which rightfully belongs to the people in that particular area. The farmers, the ranchers, the lumbermen and the various industries that might be involved should not, in my opinion, be obliged to look after the selling of their own goods. It is a problem that should devolve on the government of this country.

The government should take action now for the alleviation of a situation that has grown into an unhappy one in this country. We therefore support the subamendment that was proposed by the hon. member for Cape Breton South.

Mr. Daniel McIvor (Fort William): Mr. Speaker, I am not going to quote labour leaders and what they have found. I am not going to quote editorials and what they have reported. I am just going to speak of what I know. I know something about Fort William. I know what causes any unemployment that we have there. When the freeze-up comes, it certainly freezes certain sources of employment. Navigation ceases. Therefore those who are working on the freighters or on passenger boats and who have their homes in Fort William are obliged to seek other jobs. Elevator work becomes a little bit scarcer. Dredging is shut down. Some railway workers are laid off. Road work is scarcer. Sometimes pulp and paper workers are laid off. Certainly in connection with