

Economic Rehabilitation

immense benefit. I also realize that under present legislation respecting employment services, as outlined by the Minister of Labour this afternoon, much has been done to alleviate the problem presented by the hon. member.

However, when I read the resolution I first had to ask myself, is it feasible; is it workable? The hon. member gave the answer at the outset of his remarks, when he stated that he had been branded as a socialist and that his party believed in combining socialism and private enterprise. But after having studied the resolution, having given it all the consideration I can, I say to the hon. member that I am positive that if his resolution were implemented in full we would have not only a socialist government but a dictatorship.

I am not so sure that the hon. member does not associate socialism and dictatorship because you cannot say to me, sir, that you can pick up a family holus-bolus from where their roots are and move them around like pawns on a chess board, as would be the case if the resolution were put into effect 100 per cent. Perhaps I would not have spoken this evening if I had not chanced to pick up this morning's *Gazette* and noticed an article there headed, "U. S. Company Closes Plant in Ontario". The article goes on to say that because of a strike in the plant the manager has announced that the plant will be closed and will not again open to carry on manufacturing activities in Ontario.

I thought for a moment of what would be the situation in a few towns in my own constituency where there is only one industry if such a thing should happen. It would be a catastrophe, just as the hon. member has visualized in presenting his resolution. But I say to you, Mr. Speaker, and through you to the members of the house, that irrespective of all the good thinking of the majority of workers in small plants, what would these workers think if they knew there was legislation under which, if the plant should be closed, a kindly government would pick them up, move them holus-bolus and settle them in some other town in a far better environment?

In other words, if the resolution were put into effect 100 per cent you would merely be encouraging the closing down of plants in order that a percentage of the workers could get a more favourable environment in which to live. Frankly, I think that might work in one way to the benefit of Nova Scotia, because I cannot think of any better environment than that of Nova Scotia as a place for the people of Canada to work and live. However, that is my thinking.

Then I gave a few minutes thought to how such a scheme would operate. The hon.

member mentioned that a public investment fund of some sort should be set up, but you know funds do not grow on trees. You have to find the money to put in those funds. He did not tell us where we were going to find the money. I thought we could work it out by undertaking some sort of scheme such as the unemployment insurance plan involving both employer and employees. I wondered how favourably employers and employees would regard such a scheme. It would seem to me that such a scheme, if set up, would merely hasten the day when many industries getting along on a marginal basis at the present time would be forced to close and throw their employees on the resources of this fund.

I also suggest that if we had full implementation of what is proposed in the resolution staring us in the face there would be a lack of incentive on the part of people to put their shoulders to the wheel and try to make an industry pay. In a good many of our industries there has to be full co-operation between labour and management. I am not saying anything against labouring people, because I have every respect for them; but there would be a small segment of labour which would say, "Why should we exert ourselves to try to make this industry a success? If we do not make it a success we have a kindly government which will come along, pay us relief while we are out of work and then move us some place else where we can go to work." As I say, I have come to the conclusion that such a plan would not work except under a dictatorship.

Mr. Gillis: You have very little faith in human nature.

Mr. Purdy: You would do away with the rugged individualists. I know that the hon. member for Cape Breton South comes from a great race of rugged individualists, but you would do away with the type of people who have helped to make Canada and Nova Scotia what they are. At the present time the free world is fighting a cold war with those behind the iron curtain. If we took that attitude and said to labour and management that we were going to tax them and put them out of business in order to build up an organization such as I visualize, it would be a great step toward losing the cold war because we have to have initiative, the strong individualist and the work of every Canadian and other person outside the iron curtain to withstand the attacks that are being made on us today.

I know the hon. member for Cape Breton South has vivid recollections of the many once prosperous mining towns in Cape Breton which are now ghost towns. But I suggest