

*Supply—Labour*

is a clear responsibility that nobody should try to exaggerate the situation or use it for political purposes.

The hon. member for Essex East has always been very adept at manoeuvring the various figures released by the unemployment insurance commission, and also the figures which the Minister of Labour has been good enough to make available to us, figures, I might say, which were not made available under previous governments.

I feel that the opposition have got themselves into a very ridiculous position on this question of unemployment. We well recall the other day they felt it was so urgent that we should adjourn our regular business and debate unemployment. It is very good that we should debate it, but I believe there is a clear responsibility on the opposition now to bring forward some suggestions.

I should like to call this fact to your attention, Mr. Chairman. It was the opposition who asked us to adjourn the regular business of this house, to stop and debate unemployment. There was a measure to be debated that very day, a measure to provide \$500 million under the housing act. I am not going to go into too great detail as to what it will do in terms of employment, but I have a few figures here, which were given to me in discussions with the personnel of the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, as to what employment is provided by housing. This is what they have to say:

It is estimated that the building of a house provides, on the average, one man hour of employment on site; one man hour of employment off site in the production and transportation of building materials, and one half man hour of employment in the preparation of housing sites, in the provision of ground services and the like. On this basis, employment on new housebuilding in 1959 probably averaged close to 360,000. This would vary of course according to the season of the year, with well over 400,000 employed in the summer months and perhaps close to 250,000 in the winter months. National Housing Act financed activity accounted for a little less than one half of this employment.

In other words, Mr. Chairman, the money made available by the government under the National Housing Act provided 180,000 jobs last year. That is the program that we have before us to create employment this year and the opposition, not concerned with creating jobs, wanted to postpone that so they could make political capital by complaining about the ones that are out of work.

I am sure that many of the opposition members have had, as I have had, briefs from carpenters throughout the country who are unemployed, but when we have an opportunity to adopt a measure, to go ahead and help to put these people to work they would rather stop and talk and complain about those

out of work than take any constructive action to put them to work. Even with all of the talking they have done since that time and during the course of the debate, I will challenge any one of them to bring forward a constructive idea that will put to work a quarter of the number of men who have gone to work under this program. But we will not hear that from them. They would rather have these people out of work so that they can complain.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** Does the hon. member wish me to deal with that right now?

**Mr. Browne (Vancouver-Kingsway):** If the member for Essex East wishes to ask a question—

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** The hon. member challenged any member of the opposition to show how any of the proposals we made would put men to work. If the hon. member wants me to meet that challenge, I am prepared to.

**Mr. Ricard:** What did you offer?

**Mr. Browne (Vancouver-Kingsway):** Mr. Chairman, I hope I have stirred the hon. member for Essex East to bring forward some sort of proposal. Nobody will be happier than I will be if he can bring a measure before the house that will put people to work. I can assure him that if it is a responsible measure and within the power of the house I will certainly support it.

**Mr. Ricard:** He never did offer anything.

**Mr. Browne (Vancouver-Kingsway):** We want to take whatever action we can and I will support whatever action we can take to put people to work.

**Mr. Ricard:** What did you offer?

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** The hon. member, who is intervening contrary to the rules of the house, says that we made no proposals. He has not got the floor and the hon. member who is now speaking is thereby interrupted. I do not want these remarks to go unchallenged because we have made proposals which the government has ignored.

**Mr. Ricard:** What are they?

**Mr. Browne (Vancouver-Kingsway):** Mr. Chairman, we all heard the hon. member for Essex East this morning when he had an opportunity to make proposals. He made proposals for committees, he made proposals for studies, but he did not bring one measure forward that would put men to work right now.

**Mr. Ricard:** He never will.