

Employment Programs

rather sharply to the attention of my colleagues because the government seems not yet seized of the compelling urgency of our regional problems. I give the government one very practical suggestion. It is one along with those excellent suggestions which my leader put forward, and he knows more about these problems in the Atlantic region than any man in this country. I say that it is time for a renewal, a recreation, a resurrection of the Atlantic adjustment grants.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Macquarrie: In the province of Prince Edward Island we have a regional economic expansion plan. I wish it well, but when you see a little province like P.E.I. called upon to put up \$2 for every \$1 that the national government puts forth, you realize that that is not the kind of planning we need. The ratio should be reversed at least, but better still we should have the kind of thing which was extended in 1957 and 1958, an assistance which would enable the provinces to meet the needs of their people in these days when expanded social services are required. That is one suggestion I put to the government at present—bring forward new Atlantic adjustment grants. Use the same figure as before, but compute it in relation to the increased cost of living and you will see what happens to the \$35 million.

We ask, sir, that statistics such as those which came out in the fourth report of the Economic Council of Canada be considered and the terrible economic disparity be diminished. If that is not the job of the national government I do not know what is. Looking at per capita income figures we see that in the province of Ontario the average income is \$2,296, in the province of P.E.I. \$1,370, and in the province of Newfoundland \$1,173. Do we need to talk any more about disparity? If I gave figures for the cost of living, the disparities would be all the more. I call on the government to look seriously at this excellent resolution, thoughtfully worded and carefully presented, and to look very carefully at a place which has known more unemployment, more neglect, and more disparity than any other part of this great land.

• (5:10 p.m.)

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order. It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Carter)—Fisheries—depletion of marine resources; the hon. member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow)—Canadian National Railways—non-payment of minimum wage—discussion by Minister of Transport with president.

[Mr. Macquarrie.]

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY S.O. 58—LABOUR CONDITIONS—POLICIES AND PROGRAMS TO INCREASE EMPLOYMENT—INCREASED UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Lewis:

Whereas there has been a relentless climb in the level of unemployment in all regions of Canada, and

Whereas a number of responsible economic authorities have predicted record levels of unemployment this coming winter, and

Whereas, unless special measures are immediately taken, the likelihood of serious increases in the level of unemployment in the Province of Quebec and the City of Montreal will add to an already critical situation,

Therefore, be it resolved that this House calls upon the Government to institute, in co-operation with provinces and municipalities, policies and programs that will increase significantly the number of jobs available this winter and, as a special measure of assistance to those who remain unemployed, to increase both the amount of unemployment benefits and the eligibility period provided by the Unemployment Insurance Commission.

[Translation]

Mr. Roland Godin (Portneuf): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support the motion before us and I think that every member normally elected and free from any financial obligation should do the same.

The hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis), who has introduced this motion, deserves congratulations because he wanted to draw the attention of the government to the unfortunate situation in which too many Canadians find themselves. The results of this government and of the previous ones are summed up in this motion, which tells quite a different story from that of the Canada Year Book, which gives the interesting side of the economy.

For instance, this valuable book points out the high rate of productivity achieved by wheat and milk producers. A wheat and milk surplus supports this contention. The same book interestingly notes that the country still ranks first as a world exporter of mineral products. Through that book, we learn that Canada remains the main world producer of nickel and zinc, is second for the production of asbestos and uranium and numbers among the great producers of copper, gold, potash, iron, lead and silver. It is also gratifying to learn that Canada comes third among the world producers of various minerals, after the United States and the Soviet Union. The book even says that Canada will become the greatest potash producer of the world. Third largest world producer of aluminum, large producer of oil and natural gas, Canada also meets 40 per cent of the demand for newsprint and asbestos throughout the world.

In spite of the large quantity of raw materials exported at extremely low prices, such as iron which in Quebec has a 50 to 70 per cent dosage, and which sells for 2 cents a ton, we hold a record, namely the equivalent of \$850 per capita for exports. This record can mean a lot if it is compared with American exports of \$370 per capita and the world average of \$171.