

principle of unemployment insurance in a country with a climate such as ours where many areas of the work force are unable to go about their tasks in the winter months.

The bill before us and the increases therein represent one or two situations either of which has rather severe implications for our country. The near-universality of its application may well indicate that the government has privileged information which forces it to conclude that the long-term outlook for our economy is so bleak that it is essential that workers in hitherto stable occupations as government service, teaching, nursing, the armed services, law enforcement, hospital services and the executive levels of employment must at the earliest date be afforded the protective benefits of unemployment insurance. If this is not the case, I can only conclude that workers in these occupations are being hopelessly taxed to provide a guaranteed income of as much as \$100 a week for what is becoming an alarmingly large segment of long-term unemployed workers in our economy. As I said before, abuses of the act cause the most alarm to the greatest number of people.

● (9:10 p.m.)

Throughout the winter a great many figures have been bandied about in the House. We have had seasonally adjusted and unadjusted figures. The fact remains that there is a considerably large group of unemployed. There is today an undesirable and unbearable amount of unemployment in Canada. Somewhere along the line we have to do some soul-searching because we are paying out vast amounts of unemployment insurance which of course, come from taxes collected.

I picked up a copy of the March 5 edition of the *Calgary Herald* from a random pile in my office. Before I go into the figures that I arrived at on counting the job opportunities and situations wanted, I wish to draw the attention of hon. members to page 4508 of *Hansard* for March 23. In answering a question with regard to West Indians being brought into Canada for farm work, the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) said:

Mr. Speaker, I agree with the hon. member on that score. The purpose of the Manpower centres is to send the unemployed or the students to take part in this work.

The Prime Minister was referring to the work which West Indians will be doing on the farms of Ontario.

But, once again, facts reveal that there are in Canada some types of work which the unemployed and the students refuse to do; this proves, by the way, that the rate of unemployment is at times somewhat artificial.

The significant part of the answer is that there are some types of work which the unemployed and students refuse to do. I agree that everyone should have a choice. We cannot take away this basic decision. However, this group that refuses to work when there is work is exercising its choice. In many cases the financing on which they depend comes from tax dollars. The taxpayers do not have an opportunity of refusing the right to pay taxes.

We have a great hard-core of unemployed in this country. In some areas of the country this has gone on for generation after generation. I refer to welfare in particu-

Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971

lar. The fact is that they are given the choice whether to work or not. We are obliged to care for them. On the other hand, the taxpayers who provide the money are not given that choice. If they were to apply their rights and privileges to whether they paid taxes or not, their property would be taken away and would become the property of the state. This is a very significant factor. We should take a long look at moving the unemployed to areas where jobs are available.

On going through the March 5 edition of the *Calgary Herald* I found there were 260 job opportunities and 25 career opportunities. As a balancing factor, there were 36 situations wanted. On that particular day there were 285 job and career opportunities, compared with 36 situations wanted. The job opportunities were not merely at one end of the scale; they covered the whole gamut from the most unskilled to requirements for the most highly educated and highly skilled jobs. There were ads for agents, salesmen, domestic help, female stenographers, waitresses, hospital personnel and teachers. This seems unjust when the unemployment insurance pot is being depleted. I suppose what I saw in the *Calgary Herald* would be indicative of the majority of newspapers in Canada. These employers need people to work for them, yet we pay out vast sums of unemployment insurance and make the pot a little sweeter.

In my opinion the proposed measures in this legislation perpetuate in a dangerous fashion the failure of the government to treat the root causes of our social problem. Canadians need programs and legislation which stimulate a depressed economy by increasing as rapidly as possible the rate at which our unemployed and workers coming into the labour market for the first time can find employment. One of our greatest depressants in the creation of new jobs becoming available to Canadians is the white paper on taxation and the concern it has caused throughout the nation. Tragic as many of the proposals in that white paper were, the time lag in tax change legislation coming forward as a follow-up to the white paper, and the uncertainty it has created in the country for a great length of time, has been one of the major reasons for unemployment reaching and remaining at its present level.

Legislation which merely makes unemployment more bearable and provides for payment of substantial benefits after so short an attachment as eight weeks to the labour force can only create a climate of acceptance on the part of the hardcore unemployed of Canada. They know that the government will look after them. Instead of placing priority on conditional employment insurance benefits, we should be reducing taxation as a means of reactivating our economy. We should be proposing measures which would bring 1¼ million people into the labour force. We should not be embarking upon more schemes which would drain from the economy unemployment insurance funds amounting to several hundred millions of dollars which are needed to promote expansion of business and industry.

● (9:20 p.m.)

If taxes were lower, if the future were not so uncertain, a great many more people would be hired, a great