

Committee Reports

Here we are with a situation which has been ongoing. There are many cases of unfairness, injustice, inconsistency, and arbitrariness under the Unemployment Insurance Act, waste in some cases and poor administration. The Government recognized that in 1984 but did nothing about it, and it should be no surprise to the Government that I now move concurrence in that report. I put that motion to the House several years ago and I have been waiting to see whether the Government would do something, but it has not.

Finally, with an election approaching, we want to put the Government to the wall to respond. I will be particularly interested to see how Conservative Members on that committee will now vote on my motion. Conservative Members who were an overwhelming majority on that committee supported the recommendations of the committee. As a matter of fact, the committee could not have reported if the members had not supported the recommendations. There was overwhelming support for them. Now I am asking the entire House of Commons to approve that report and to do something worthwhile for Canadian workers who are unemployed.

Every time we raise this issue of unemployment insurance benefits and the reform of the Unemployment Insurance Act and ask why the Government is not implementing the unanimous report, the Government does not answer the question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The Hon. Member's time has expired, but I will give him an extra minute to wind up.

Mr. Allmand: I will conclude my remarks, Mr. Speaker. When we ask the question, the Government simply says: "Look at the great number of jobs we have created". But a great percentage of the jobs that the Government has created are in Ontario. They are not in Atlantic Canada, not in the northern part of our provinces. In British Columbia there is over 10 per cent unemployment. The new jobs created are very regionally located. Despite that, over the last two months the rate of unemployment has increased. It has risen to 8 per cent, with over one million Canadians unemployed. There is an increasing rate of part-time work. The Government has done nothing about the older worker problem. The rate of unemployment among our youth is still well over 12 per cent.

Mr. Della Noce: It is better than it was.

Mr. Allmand: The Hon. Member again shows that he does not know what he is talking about. Of course it is better than it was in the depth of the recession of 1982-83. Before the recession in 1981, the rate of unemployment was 7.5 per cent. Here it is five years after the recession and the Government has not yet got the rate of unemployment down to 7.5 per cent. In the years of Liberal Government from 1965 to 1980, the rate of unemployment was 5.6 per cent. This Government cannot come anywhere near it, nor does it have the political will to do so.

● (1540)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Questions or comments? Debate.

Mr. Blaine A. Thacker (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise to speak to the motion of the Hon. Member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East (Mr. Allmand). I note that his motion has been on the Order Paper since March of 1987, some 19 months. I have been waiting all those 19 months for him to raise this motion so we could address it, but in actual fact, the House was debating Bill C-144, the child care legislation, which is a critical piece of law for the millions of women in Canada who are working and need help. As such, I believe it is important for the House to get back to that debate.

I therefore move, seconded by the distinguished Hon. Member for Scarborough Centre (Mrs. Browes):

That this House do now proceed to the Orders of the Day.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

Some Hon. Members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): All those opposed will please say nay.

Some Hon. Members: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): In my opinion the yeas have it.

And more than five Members having risen:

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Call in the Members.

The House divided on the motion (Mr. Thacker), which was agreed to on the following division:

(Division No. 577)

YEAS

Members

Attewell	Gray	Peterson
Belsher	(Bonaventure—Îles-de-la-Madeleine)	Redway
Binns	Hamilton	Ricard
Blais	Hawkes	Scott
Blenkarn	Hicks	(Hamilton—Wentworth)
Bradley	Hnatyshyn	Scowen
Brisco	Horner	Sparrow
Browes	James	Stevens
Cadieux	Jepson	Taylor
Caldwell	Joncas	Thacker
Clark	Jourdenais	Towers
(Brandon—Souris)	Kempling	Tupper
Crosbie	King	Turner
(St. John's West)	Layton	(Ottawa—Carleton)
Crosby	Lesick	Warner
(Halifax West)	Lewis	Wenman
Darling	Mantha	Wilson
Della Noce	Mayer	(Swift Current
Desjardins	Mazankowski	—Maple Creek)
Dorin	McCain	Wilson
Duplessis	McDermid	(Etobicoke
Fennell	McKinnon	Centre)
Ferland	Nicholson	Winegard
Fontaine	(Niagara Falls)	Witer—65
Friesen	Nickerson	
Girard	Nowlan	