

up the committee, the Government had nothing to do with the suggestion that such a committee be set up.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: I beg my honourable friend's pardon. I forgot to mention the fact that it was the honourable Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Macdonald, Brantford) who first mentioned the appointment of such a committee.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald (Brantford): I was not asking to be mentioned as the one who suggested in the first place that the committee be set up. What I do take exception to is the attitude of the Government that it is its suggestion and that it is the Government that is putting this resolution into effect.

Honourable senators, the honourable Leader of the Government has, as I said, stated that this committee is being set up in the same terms as the committee of last session. That is correct, with the exception of the preamble. The preamble to the resolution presented to this house on May 10 last, according to the *Journals of the Senate* for that date, read as follows: "The Honourable Senator Aseltine moved, seconded by the Honourable Senator Macdonald . . ." But at this session the Government wants to claim all the credit for whatever good may come from the work of this committee, and my name is stricken from the resolution.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: I am quite willing to amend the motion. When speaking of the honourable Leader of the Opposition, it never occurred to me that I was taking away any of the kudos from him.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald (Brantford): It is not the taking away of the kudos from me that I am objecting to; I am objecting to the Government's taking unto itself all the credit for the setting up of this committee in order that it may take all the credit for any good that should come from it. Perhaps I should not be too niggardly about this because, goodness knows, the Government needs credit for something.

Honourable senators, as I have said, this motion is particularly welcome because it is being introduced in the early days of this session. Notice of the motion was given, in fact, on the very first day—quite different from last session. Honourable senators will remember it was on March 8 that it was suggested from this side of the house that such a committee should be set up. The suggestion met with the approval of organizations from all across Canada, and also of the press, but at that time the Government was not convinced there was an unemployment problem. I recall the Prime Minister, the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Trade and Commerce all saying that we were living in good

times; that we were in a period of booming prosperity, and that—they did not say this, but they believed it—there was no unemployment problem which could not, and which would not, cure itself. They said that even when the number of unemployed rose to about 800,000. There were 800,000 unemployed in the spring of last year.

Some of my friends raise their eyebrows; they have already forgotten. But, that was the fact, and the Government took no steps until there were further demands from the public and further prodding by the press. It was only on May 10, after all this prodding and after these demands from across Canada—

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: I will have something to say about that before the debate is concluded.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald (Brantford): I did not interrupt my friend, and he did not say anything about it previously. He cannot deny that it was on May 10 that the resolution to set up this committee was introduced in the house, and it was introduced as a joint resolution. He did go that far; he did not take all the credit at that time. He has changed now, but at that time he took the attitude that it was a joint resolution, and so far as we on this side of the house are concerned we will give this resolution our whole-hearted support. The honourable Leader of the Government need have no worry about that. He does not need to worry about taking the credit for it. We are going to do what we can to make this committee a worth-while committee.

You might say, honourable senators, "Well, we did not get started until May 10." I say that if my friend had taken up this suggestion in March, when it was put forward, a great deal of time which was lost would not have been lost. The Government would now have much of this information, at a time when it realizes that we have a problem. The Government has at last, apparently, awakened to the fact that there is unemployment; and well it might, when the number of unemployed has reached, at this season of the year, the highest figure in Canada since the dark days of the 1930's. The figures for last month record that there are 368,000 unemployed at the present time.

Now, honourable senators, what do we find? I am very happy to note that the Government is not now looking at this problem with complacency. On the contrary, it suddenly appears to have become panicky. It has moved from a state of lethargy into a state of panic. Well, I hope it does not become too panicky, because you cannot handle problems properly when you have the jitters. You have to be cool, calm and collected. Last year the Government was cool,