

Employment Support Bill

the courage to try and make this possible, but let us not back away and say it is not possible. The hon. member also chided the Conservatives because at one time they suggested we should divert 15 or 25 per cent of our trade to the U.K. in order to become more independent. But at least that was a statement of intent, and I hear no such statement of intent coming from the other side of the House.

Mr. Perrault: You are getting performance now, which is a big difference.

Mr. Gleave: Performance? My hon. friend does not know the difference between pedalling a bike forward and pedalling it backward.

Mr. Perrault: At least we have some air in the tires.

An hon. Member: You have some air in the head too.

Mr. Gleave: Let me make up our minds what we are about. This country will not become wealthy if we abandon the dairy farms and the grain farms and go into wheat acreage reduction. The country will not become wealthy that way. One might think it will, but "X" number of years from now when our fisheries and farms have ceased to produce the country will be hard up.

● (8:20 p.m.)

What could be more vulnerable than a manufacturing industry with a 10 per cent surcharge clapped on it? This afternoon a member on the government side of the House said that as a result of this surcharge and other manoeuvres being carried on in the United States, the amount will be closer to 20 per cent. What could be more vulnerable than an industry in that situation, particularly one depending on the export market? When you talk about farms you can let them lie and not employ people, but when you are considering manufacturing industries you must realize they will be faced with a capital loss, a drop in real estate values and a general collapse.

Is it not about time there was a little realism in this country? We should begin to look at the real value and consider what we can and cannot do. I do not think the government has done that in bringing in this measure. I do not think the government has looked at the situation with sharp eyes, in view of this legislation we are being asked to approve.

I know what will happen in the farm sector. We will ask day after day in this House whether the government is going to do something under the Agricultural Prices Support Act in respect of apples, hogs and cheese. We will be asking those questions and the answers we will get will be "Tomorrow," "Soon," "Maybe," "It is under study," "It is not in the act," "We do not have the provision." The government is inclined to just let the primary producers survive, and if they cannot they are expendable. The government is foolishly convinced that no matter what happens, the primary producers will produce fish, cheese, butter, wheat, barley and rapeseed. This government is living in a dreamland and thinks that hard economic facts do not apply to the primary producers.

[Mr. Gleave.]

Let me suggest to the government that for every dollar put into these primary industries it gets at least half of it back in taxes. Under this measure the government will not be putting dollars into industries which will pay the same percentage of tax. The industries which will benefit are those which transmit their profits outside the country. They employ every dodge possible to evade taxation. As someone suggested this afternoon, it is labour, primary industries, fishermen and farmers who pay their income taxes. They have no way of avoiding it. They cannot hire high-priced help to tell them how to get out of the tax squeeze. We have been levying increasing taxes on these people while allowing large corporations to exploit our resources and avoid paying the same taxes.

We must support our schools to educate our children because these industries will not hire young Canadians who do not have grade 12 education. Even in the group with that level of education we find selection. They are told they need at least two years university or technical school education. Young labourers in the age group of 18 to 25 are today the best bargain you can find in this country. If you do not believe it, you have never talked to them. I have talked to them in Saskatchewan and this is what they told me. I phoned them, held interviews and I listened to them. They find themselves on the bargain table, and they know it. Make no mistake about this, agricultural products have also been on the bargain table for the last four years. Unless we change the situation and alter our ways we are going to pay a very high price in the future in order to deal with these two problems, the employment of our young people and the maintaining of a viable farm industry.

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, I should like to make a few brief comments concerning Bill C-262 entitled "An act to support employment in Canada." When I say brief, I mean just that; I do not wish to prolong the debate, because there are many industries in this country urgently in need of the financial assistance this measure will provide. I trust, therefore, there will be co-operation not only from this side of the House in the form of short contributions to the debate but also co-operation on the part of opposition parties.

The urgency of assistance was brought forcibly to my attention only ten days after President Nixon's announcement on August 15 of the imposition of a 10 per cent surcharge on many exports from Canada. I should like to read a telegram I received from the management of a paper mill located in my constituency:

American 10 per cent tax move on top of freed Canadian dollar has forced lay-off of 75 employees effective end of August 1971. If no relief in sight, further shrinkage of sales in United States may well lead to shutdown of all paper machines, resulting in an additional 300 unemployed at our Eddy forest product plant in Espanola, Ontario.

On August 20 the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) said that if nothing is done to remove or prevent the impact of the surcharge, and if it is given full effect, it will cause the loss of many thousands of jobs. We did not have to look very far afield in the Algoma federal riding to realize that this statement was only too true. I sent an urgent telegram to the Prime Minister requesting that