

Winter Employment Projects

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): I do not think I have to say much more than I have said, Mr. Speaker. I am primarily concerned with providing work immediately, and I know that in connection with the other part of my program in the parks we have had to use unorthodox methods in getting the work started. As a matter of fact it is starting and will be starting in most places tomorrow, and we have asked for tenders. Tenders have been asked for in an unorthodox manner, such as wiring as many people as we can. We have had to make some very quick decisions to get equipment ready for them, and I would hope that in the circumstances the house would consider the prior task that we are trying to complete of providing work immediately, and not hold me up too much by recourse to enforcement of the usual safety precautions.

Mr. Lesage: I have only one thing to say, and that is I have taken note of the admission of the minister that he is using unorthodox methods.

Mr. A. M. Nicholson (Mackenzie): I should like to ask the minister if he has been able to reach a decision with respect to whether the Flin Flon-Hanson lake-Prince Albert road, which passes through a forest area, is being included in the project.

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): All I have from the provinces is a statement of intention and of the rough amount they expect to spend. In the case of Saskatchewan we have not considered whether that road comes within their project. As a matter of fact I am not too much concerned, because as long as they provide something that meets the criteria we have laid down we will pay our half the costs if it provides the amount of work we are hoping to achieve through winter employment.

Mr. W. J. Henderson (Kingston): Would the minister assure the house that this is not a preview of the 20-cent a day labour camps for the unemployed in the early thirties?

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): Mr. Speaker, I doubt whether this is in order on motions, but I should like to say in answer—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle):—that we follow the recommendations of the Department of Labour.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The practice of the house when a statement has been made on motions is for only one speaker from each group to comment, and we have been around the circle now. Is there anything else under the heading of motions? Orders of the day.

[Mr. Lesage.]

[Later:]

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. A. Bryson (Humboldt-Melfort): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources arising out of the statement he made earlier today with regard to the forest road program. My question deals with the figures he placed on the record, being those that were proposed by the provinces involving the share of money they are prepared to put up as their part of the program. Are the figures arrived at by the provinces contingent on limitations imposed upon them by the federal government with regard to the amount of money the government is prepared to spend on this project; and will agreements be signed in time for spring operations to be started?

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): The answer is that the estimates submitted by some of the provinces were based on the amount of work they thought they could complete by the date suggested in my letter to them of January 2.

Mr. Bryson: Would the federal government be prepared to match any amount dollar for dollar?

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): We have not set any precise limit, but it is certainly obvious from the fact that we are in the winter season that only a certain amount of work can be done. I do not know what the final amount will come to. We have estimated roughly \$1 million, which I think will about cover the program, but the amount may be higher or lower.

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON STEPS TO PROVIDE
FULL EMPLOYMENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour, if I may. I wonder if the minister would indicate to the house what steps are being taken by the government to institute one of its major planks in the election campaign, namely full employment.

Hon. Michael Starr (Minister of Labour): Yes, Mr. Speaker. I think this gives me an opportunity at this moment, in answer to a question of that nature, to say what this government has done to alleviate the unemployment situation with which we found ourselves confronted on June 21 when we were sworn in as the government.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.