

Alleged Failure of Employment Policies

other members gives me cause to wonder whether many Members of Parliament, the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), top level civil servants, bureaucrats and those who make decisions on how to spend the government's \$13 billion are really aware of the serious unemployment situation and the day to day problems faced by unemployed men and their families. As a matter of fact, yesterday I moved a motion to the effect that the serious unemployment situation in Canada today be referred to the Standing Committee on Labour, Manpower and Immigration for discussion. Again, of course, we did not receive unanimous consent.

● (4:00 p.m.)

I wonder how many of the 20 members out of 264 who prefer to sit in the House on Friday afternoon to debate a motion such as this when most of the members are heading toward their constituencies or have been there all week, understand what unemployment is all about and what effect it has on a family.

An hon. Member: What about 1962?

Mr. Lundrigan: How many understood in 1962, asks the hon. member for Renfrew. Is it Renfrew? How many members know what unemployment is all about or what it feels like to be unemployed? Let me ask members from the interlake area around Winnipeg, from the northern areas, from British Columbia, from the slow-growth areas of Ontario, the whole of the Quebec nation—province, rather—and the east coast of Canada, when they stand up in the House and talk about employment and the effect it is having on our population, how many of them actually appreciate what this means?

When I refer to the fact that in my own province 22 per cent of the population is unemployed, I wonder how many members actually understand what that means. We have two types of people, those who are unemployed and those who are in fear of becoming unemployed. We have people who are almost ashamed that they have jobs because they are living next door to men who do not have a job, whose children are not as well dressed, fed or schooled as theirs. They are living in homes where the whole standard of living is low. Everything in relation to their standard of living is low, including the food they purchase at the corner store—at the little shops, as we call them. How many people actually understand what that means?

[Mr. Lundrigan.]

I sincerely feel it is a total waste of my time to stand here in the House of Commons talking about unemployment. I am talking to about 40 people. Perhaps a couple of them will take into consideration what I say. Perhaps one or two will remember a word or two of the speech of the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby (Mr. Broadbent). Perhaps another one or two will take into account a word or two of the speech of the hon member for Davenport. Perhaps one or two will remember a few words said by the Minister remember a few words said by the Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. MacEachen)?

I am sure only half a dozen members here have been paying attention to the business of the nation. That would be the total number of members who know what has been said in the House of Commons. I think this debate is a waste of time. If I knew of any House rule that would allow me to move the adjournment of the House so that we could just go home and call it a day, I would so move. If I knew of an appropriate motion I would move it, because I think this debate is a waste of time.

Some hon. Members: Move the motion.

Mr. Lundrigan: Mr. Speaker, a lot of my colleagues are urging me to move that motion. If it is in order, I would move that the House do adjourn.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member knows that a motion cannot be made in the House without a seconder.

Mr. Lundrigan: Mr. Speaker, I so move, seconded by the hon. member for Parry Sound-Muskoka (Mr. Aiken).

Mr. Speaker: There is another rule the hon. member has overlooked. The motion has to be in writing.

Mr. Lundrigan: Mr. Speaker, if the House will approve, I will put it in writing. Perhaps it is more important that I have drawn attention to this fact than that the motion be accepted. I want to use the 15 minutes which I have left. I am sure I have drawn attention to the fact that perhaps by and large it is a waste of time to be talking on this motion because there are very few ears of the Canadian nation listening.

The fact that we have a Department of Regional Economic Expansion and a Minister of Manpower and Immigration, who undoubtedly is very concerned and is making an