

Supply—Labour

Mr. Ricard:—when they were defeated and when they were thrown into the cold regions of the opposition. They are in a kind of frigidaire or deep freeze and they are going to be there for a long time.

At this point I should like to indicate my appreciation to the hon. member for Laurier who during the previous two election campaigns came into my riding and helped me win by a majority of 2,000 in the first instance and by a majority of 5,000 in the second.

I should like through you, Mr. Chairman, to remind my hon. friends in the Liberal party that under the Conservative government unemployment insurance benefits have been extended to married women and fishermen, and there has been an extension to 52 weeks of the period during which benefits are given to unemployed workers. This is something about which the Grits do not like to be reminded. Of course, when they were in office my Liberal friends had the problems of unemployed workers very much at heart. This pressed them so hard on their hearts that it nearly choked them. The workers are not likely to forget what the Conservatives have accomplished on their behalf. I know it is distasteful to the hon. members for Essex East, Laurier and Bonavista-Twillingate to have me remind them of what was done by the Conservative party but the action it has taken is a reality, something the workers will remember for years to come.

I am a Conservative, a true blue as they say. In the last election I defeated a Grit who was a member of this house for years. He had previously been elected with a majority of 13,000. I succeeded in defeating him. It is a cause of sorrow to hon. members of the Liberal party that this humble servant should have won a place in this chamber. Those who elected me have the satisfaction of knowing that I have come here and am striving to do something on their behalf, and I know I am going to be here for years to come. I know that both the hon. member for Dollard and the hon. member for St. Ann have long faces. They are sorry that I remind them of these things.

I would point out to the committee that there are many factors responsible for what is possibly a temporary increase in unemployment. Today everybody speaks of automation. Apparently it has never occurred to the Grits that industry today is producing more with less people than was the case in the old days. Perhaps this is because under the Grits no improvement was possible. I worked in the textile industry for years. At one time in that industry we could produce 100,000 pounds of production per week

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with 150 employees but today as a result of improvements in machinery and methods of production we can produce 150,000 pounds employing only 75 or 100 persons. Evidently the Grits do not know these things. They have been living in the past. They always want to refer to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, a Canadian for whom I have much respect. They like to dwell on the past and think in terms of the horse and buggy. I invite you to look at them. Are they not riding the horse and buggy? Surely they are. They are saddened by the progress that has taken place under a Conservative administration.

Mr. Pickersgill: Progress means they have lost the horse and have only the buggy.

Mr. Ricard: And you, my hon. friend, are sitting in the buggy while we advance with the horse. The minute that this government provides work for 5, 10 or 20 workers my hon. friends in the Liberal party are sorry about it because it cuts the ground from under their feet. It completely invalidates their arguments to the effect that this government has done nothing about unemployment. They are sorry to see the Conservative government in office and providing solutions to old problems. They never thought we could do anything but we have done something and we shall continue to take action for the benefit of Canada. We are going to provide jobs now to the people of Canada in the best interests of this nation and to the deep sorrow of the Grits.

Mr. Martin (Timmins): Mr. Chairman, my greatest regret at this moment is that the 800,000 unemployed Canadians were not in this chamber this afternoon to listen to the way their problems were being treated during the last few minutes by some hon. members of this committee.

I should like to thank the minister for supplying the information he gave to the committee this morning. It has helped in a small way to meet what is one of the greatest problems encountered by hon. members as a result of the lack of research facilities in obtaining information to do the sort of job one wants to do in debates as important as the one before us now. I am also glad because the information supplied today substantiates in every detail the information which I supplied when the matter was debated last week.

I have made a study of the various municipalities that have subscribed to the winter works program or are expected to subscribe to it in the vast territory running from the lakehead at the Manitoba border in northern Ontario, to the Quebec border and including the municipalities of North Bay and surrounding areas. Only 10 municipalities in this whole vast area are expected to subscribe to this program. The participation of