

Unemployment

Mr. Zaplitny: Of course I would not want to get my opinion of the hon. member from the *Montreal Gazette*. But it must be admitted that if the Liberal party is to live up to its early tradition of being a radical party in some respects, then it is necessary that there should be a left-wing group in that party. Instead of having a left-wing group we have a group of people who are not willing to challenge the status quo; they are not willing to challenge the profiteering of monopolies in our midst. We find that that mentality is no longer in evidence. We find the dead hand of conformity has been placed upon the genial Minister of Citizenship and Immigration (Mr. Pickersgill) who, when he was in the rarefied atmosphere of Selkirk, where we are all very forward looking, even stated that so far as he was concerned the Liberal party was a party of human welfare.

Mr. Pickersgill: So it is.

Mr. Zaplitny: The minister will have to do some convincing today right in his own government and in his own ranks.

Mr. Martin: Surely not.

Mr. Zaplitny: I say this deliberately, because we have been told in reply to all suggestions and proposals that we have made in this house, after all the verbiage has been stripped away, by the Minister of Trade and Commerce and to a lesser degree by the Minister of Labour himself, that after all this is a free enterprise economy and it is not up to the government to do these things that are suggested; it is up to private industry to do them. Is that the kind of human welfare the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration had in mind when he suggested that private enterprise was the trade-mark of the Tory party and the Liberals should never use it? I am afraid he is guilty of speaking out of both sides of his mouth at the same time. The stock reply is, this is a free enterprise economy and the people of Canada voted for it. They elected this government on that basis, and that is what we are going to have.

We are told that competition is the key to the whole thing. That is a point on which I want to take issue. I say that competition is not the key to the solution of our problems and never has been. I believe that co-operation is the key, and just to illustrate how quickly the people of this country can lose faith in competition when the crisis is on, I hold in my hand a Christmas card which was sent to 40,000 retailers of Canada. This folder has on its face a little cartoon. It is made up of five panels. These panels will be familiar to any western member who used to read it. It used to appear in the "Scoop

Shovel" and later in the *Country Guide*, a co-operative newspaper. It has often been used to teach the philosophy of co-operation.

I shall describe it briefly. Originally the cartoon consisted of two donkeys, but in this cartoon it is two reindeer to bring it in line with the Christmas season. The first panel shows two reindeer tied together with a rope. They are standing back to back, each one facing a bale of hay and each one wondering how to get at it. The next panel shows them struggling, each in his own direction toward the bale of hay, neither one being able to get a mouthful of it. Each is pulling the other back. The third panel shows them sitting face to face with a question mark between them, trying to figure out what to do about the competition. The fourth panel shows them standing together at one bale of hay, eating to their hearts' content, and then over at the other bale of hay eating together with a satisfied look on their faces.

In other words the 40,000 retailers of Canada are advocating what? What does this teach? Competition? No, the very opposite; it is teaching co-operation. The very people to whom this government has been trying for years to sell the philosophy of competition are now preaching co-operation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member, but I am obliged to advise him that his time has expired.

Mr. Ambrose Holowach (Edmonton East): Mr. Speaker, for several days now the pages of *Hansard* have been filled with the record of a long debate on the growing seriousness of the unemployment situation in Canada. I am sure we will all agree that if sincere words and concern alone determined the solution to any problem, then this house has been supplied with ample remedies for this problem which is now shameful. Unfortunately we know that mass unemployment is not solved that easily.

I understand there has been some criticism over the prolonging of this debate, but I believe such criticism is not justified. By investigating thoroughly the entire problem of unemployment in Canada we are focusing our attention on the seriousness of that problem. If we are able to establish the basic causes of unemployment and can apply effective remedies, then I do believe that unemployment can be solved. In my humble opinion unemployment, recessions and conditions under which men and women are without work are not beyond the control of parliament. Such conditions are not God-made, nor are they the result of supernatural forces. They are in fact the result of faulty man-made economic policies, with resulting psychological factors.