

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

AMENDMENTS TO ACT TO ASSIST UNEMPLOYED

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): In the absence of the Minister of Labour I will address my question to his Parliamentary Secretary. In light of the increasing levels of unemployment, and particularly the increase of 32,000 unemployed persons between the ages of 18 and 24, is the government now going to introduce emergency amendments to the Unemployment Insurance Act to provide greater access and assistance for the young and hard-core unemployed?

Mr. Ray Perrault (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Labour): I am sure the hon. member is aware that extensive changes in the unemployment insurance regulations are pending. We look forward to his enthusiastic support when the legislation is brought before the House.

Mr. Paproski: I hope we will get them right away instead of in 1972.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

WEEKLY STATEMENT

Mr. Baldwin: May I ask the President of the Privy Council as to the business for the balance of this week and next week. Possibly by now he has been able to consider the matter of the budget debate. If it is not going to be resumed soon, will the minister take the advice of the Acting Prime Minister and find some means by which the House can discuss the problem of unemployment?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to give the business of the House and deal with the question of the resumption of the budget debate. We hope to continue today with the young offenders bill. This will be followed by the crop insurance bill, the Northern Canada Power Commission Act amendments, Yukon minerals, the textile legislation, statutory instruments bill and the Canadian National Railway and Air Canada financing bill and then the government organization bill. I have been calling legislation rather than the budget debate in order to get as much legislation as possible before the committees.

In view of the representations made by hon. members and the desirability of dealing with the issue that has been raised, if it is agreeable I propose to interrupt this program, call the budget debate on Monday, have one day on the budget debate and then resume the normal business.

Mr. Baldwin: Will the minister consider extending the debate to two days? At the end of the second day, a vote could be taken on the very reasonable amendment moved by this party. We could then ascertain the views of the government with regard to unemployment. Could there be a two-day debate rather than one?

Mr. MacEachen: For the moment, Mr. Speaker, I think that the opportunity of a full day's debate on unemployment is much more advantageous to the opposition than

Young Offenders Act

if Your Honour had accepted their proposal today, which would provide for a debate after the dinner hour. We might review the situation on Monday evening to see whether there would be any profit in resuming the debate on Tuesday.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I urge the minister to review this matter very seriously. It is not a case of a concession being made to the opposition. The rules permit six days debate on the budget. We have only had two days debate. There must be a further four days. I think that the suggestion that there be at least two days debate on this question at this time is reasonable and that the government should agree to it.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): I suggest to the Government House Leader that it might assist in getting some of the legislation he mentioned dealt with rather quickly if he were to withdraw the young offenders bill and not further offend the House with it.

[Translation]

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Speaker, it seems that a two-day debate should take place on the question of unemployment, in view of the differences of opinion which are now obvious. It would perhaps be advisable before the President of the Privy Council takes a decision that he should call together the House Leader of each party in order to discuss this matter and come to a decision which would be acceptable to all parties concerned.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

YOUNG OFFENDERS ACT

PROVISIONS REGARDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS

The House resumed from Wednesday, January 13, consideration of the motion of Mr. Goyer that Bill C-192 respecting young offenders and repealing the Juvenile Delinquents Act be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs, and the amendment of Mr. Woolliams (p. 2381).

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, at the time of adjournment yesterday, I was speaking about the problem of young offenders and especially about Bill C-192 introduced by the Solicitor General (Mr. Goyer). I then raised several points which I found unfortunate in that bill.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I said things and made criticisms that I think are valuable and I hope the Solicitor General will consider them carefully and find there food for thought in order to improve the bill that is before us.

Before closing my remarks, I think it is my duty to suggest to the government some ways to improve the most regrettable aspects of this bill, and, some day, we will have to agree there are many, beginning with the title.