

• (1530)

I simply say, because we have a decent Unemployment Insurance Act for the first time that helps people draw a decent income during this disruptive period, a period which will eventually result in new jobs, more jobs and an expanded industry, as is now happening in the textile industry, the lumber industry and the pulp and paper industry, the net result will be more jobs. In the meantime, we should not begrudge the unemployed people in this country what is justly theirs, a decent income at government expense because the reasons for their unemployment are reasons beyond their control. It is time we put an end to the accent on abuses. This plan is not abused.

In case people think I tolerate abuses, I want to say that in 1969 I expressed my concern about abuses in no uncertain terms. In that year I caused to be published a series of advertisements in the newspapers against abuses. I pointed out the consequences. The advertisements pointed out that if a person abused the fund, he was stealing from his fellow worker. They also pointed out the criminal aspects of defrauding the fund. What did this do? It prompted a beautiful column by Canada's answer to Zane Grey, Dalton Camp, who writes about the sun setting nationally. What did he say in analysing these thoughts, as he has a right to do? He reminded me how easy it is to become reactionary when dealing with people. He took me to task, not without a certain degree of justification, for these ads. What did he say? I quote from his column of January 19, 1970:

I feel it is a duty to point out that the unemployed have been recently summoned by the Prime Minister to a higher calling; they are no longer sitting idle, indeed no. They are fighting inflation. Seldom in our history has so much been owed so many by so many.

Churchill also spoke in that way. Possibly Dalton Camp wrote his speeches, too.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Mackasey:** The article continues:

It is not to end there. The silent, nearly invisible jobless are not only fighting inflation, they must also be singled out for prominence by their friend, ("If you're not working for someone, we're working for you."), the Unemployment Insurance Commission, which has proclaimed to the country through a half-page advertisement that some of the unemployed "deliberately cheat."

This is what was said all during the election.

Thus, the Canadian Government confirms what some have so long suspected—that it's high time somebody tried to make the poor and down and out an honest man. Like the rest of us.

Here we get the sarcasm. It is well deserved. He goes on to say:

Frankly, I am puzzled by the strategy. It may be that the Unemployment Insurance Commission has been overwhelmed by cheaters. It could be that the number of lazy, ingenious, jobless Canadians bilking the commission has become epidemic. And it may be, although it challenges credulity, that the effective way to remedy such a national scandal is to launch an advertising campaign, which, I am sorry to say, menaces those who will not read it and sanctifies the prejudices of many who will read it.

The point I am getting at, Mr. Speaker, is that this causes Dalton Camp to react. He goes on to refer to his concern about how alleged abuses can be equated with

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other programs if we pick on the helpless. The article continues:

A Day In Court for whom?

One thinks of old age pensioners, or war veterans, or children ravaging the Youth Allowance funds. Later on—much later—will they get around to a national advertising campaign of promised retribution for contractors on aircraft carrier repairs, or promoters of worthless merchandise, or unscrupulous landlords, or corporate thieves who swindle the life savings of the innocent?

That was Dalton Camp speaking in 1969. Would hon. members like to hear what he said in 1972?

**Some hon. Members:** Yes.

**Mr. Mackasey:** After talking about a leaked document, Mr. Camp went on to talk about abuses of unemployment insurance and complained that to draw unemployment insurance is too easy. He endorsed Reuben Baetz who said that nobody should draw unemployment insurance unless he has 20 weeks attachment. Mr. Camp complained that the cost of the plan was astronomical and, therefore, we should be reducing the number of people drawing from it by making the eligibility more difficult. I quote from the article:

If we all search our minds, we might recall that Robert Stanfield said, many weeks ago, much of what Baetz has recently said, although, it turns out, Stanfield's estimated cost of this folly of government policy was conservative. Would you believe \$2.2 billion?

What folly? Is it the folly that the federal government is responsible for providing a decent income to the unemployed of this country who are unemployed through no fault of their own? Is that supposed to be the folly of the Liberal government to which Dalton Camp suddenly takes exception? Why did he take exception? In this article he went on to point out that he takes exception because unemployment insurance had the effect of tranquilizing the poor, thus removing the problem of unemployment as an election issue. This was what was bothering Zane Grey II; nothing more, nothing less, namely that unemployment insurance was at least providing the unemployed with sufficient income, that they were not abnormally upset about unemployment, that they were not hysterical about the subject and that they were prepared to wait until the economy improved, as long as they at least had enough to pay the rent and groceries. This was hardly consistent with Mr. Camp's other concerns and ambitions. Obviously now for a little while he will have to limit himself to not talking about the sun setting nationally but provincially.

I know, Mr. Speaker, that I have taken extra time. However, the time will come very shortly to vote and we must remember that we are voting for a continuation of the payments of unemployment benefits this week, next week and the following week, as well as the removal of a clause that can periodically interfere with the government's main responsibility, that is to provide unemployment insurance to the unwitting victim of a policy over which he has no control.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Hales:** Mr. Speaker, will the hon. member permit a question?

**Mr. Mackasey:** Yes, Mr. Speaker.