

*Proposed Committee on Unemployment*

**Mr. Dickey:** It has not been called, I think, for the very reasons which I have been stating. I admit that the hon. member does not agree because he is one of those who are supporting the suggestion, and that is simply the disagreement between him and those who do not agree with him.

So far as finding the facts is concerned, Mr. Speaker, as I submitted last night, I believe that the facts put before the house by the Minister of Labour (Mr. Gregg) and by the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Howe) are very close to an accurate summary of the situation. In addition to that, I would be rather inclined to depend upon the members of this house, who after all represent constituencies right across this country, to give the facts during this debate as they have received them from their own constituencies. A number of members from various parts of the country have spoken, but with the exception of the members who, quite properly, have brought before the house the particular difficulties being faced now by two or three specific industries, I have yet to hear a member rise and say that in his own constituency there is a general, over-all situation of unemployment that is giving him special and particular concern.

I feel that if we were faced with a general problem of unemployment there would be at least some members who would have already risen in their places and stated that as a fact.

**Mr. Murphy (Lambton West):** Where did the 500,000 come from?

**Mr. Dickey:** The fact is that the hon. members who are interrupting at the moment have had the opportunity of bringing this situation before the government. Those members who have spoken with respect to the farm implement industry, the textile industry and the coal mining industry have brought specific problems before the house. There has not yet been any suggestion that those specific problems are not receiving attention and consideration by parliament. So far as the textile industry is concerned, the first business to which this house addressed itself at the opening of this session was legislation which had been requested to meet that particular situation.

I submit, Mr. Speaker, there has been no substantiation from their own experience in their own constituencies by hon. members opposite of the kind of figures they have been putting forward. I believe that if these situations exist they would have been brought before the house. I would hope that no members are keeping information of this kind back in order to give it to a parliamentary committee.

[Mr. Fleming.]

The subamendment proposed by the C.C.F. group does take a more practical approach to the problem. It calls for action on the part of the government to meet this situation. The amendment and the speeches that have been made by members of that group are not very specific about the particular kinds of action they wish to have taken. I was particularly impressed with the speech of the hon. member for Moose Jaw-Lake Centre (Mr. Thatcher) yesterday afternoon. The hon. member opened his remarks by a reference to the speech that had been made by the hon. member for Temiscouata (Mr. Pouliot), and that reference has been dealt with by the hon. member for Temiscouata earlier today. The hon. member asked the government whether or not the member for Temiscouata was expressing government policy in what he had said. Well, I should like to ask the hon. member for Moose Jaw-Lake Centre if he was expressing the policy of the C.C.F. group in the remarks he made on this subamendment.

The hon. member started out by suggesting that there was a responsibility on the government to provide full employment. He put forward his own view as to how that should be done. I recall a speech made some years ago, as a matter of fact it was made at the university of Dalhousie in 1948 by the Right Hon. C. D. Howe, who was then minister of reconstruction and development. I believe in that speech he expressed, as succinctly and as completely as I have ever heard it expressed, the responsibility of government with respect to economic problems and the principles which have guided this government and the Liberal party in facing the economic problems of this country. I should like to put on the record what the minister said at that time. He said:

Canada is a free enterprise economy, and the initiative for industrial expansion rests with private individuals and firms. The government will endeavour, through its policies, to create a climate within which private initiative thrives and industrial expansion is encouraged. The government will take the initiative and do what it can to co-ordinate the efforts of governmental, business and other interested groups in achieving full and effective utilization of industrial expansion in the interests of all citizens in the country. If industrial expansion and economic development is hampered by the lack of initiative the government, where the national interest demands, will take appropriate action.

I submit that that is a statement of principle and policy that is very much more in keeping with the wishes of the majority of the people of this country than some of the things that were said in this debate by the hon. member for Moose Jaw-Lake Centre and other members of his group.