

that it does not have the intellectual and moral fortitude to come down on issues perhaps has a lot to do with that.

Having said these words about the official opposition and its great resolution to come to grips with policy, I want to say also that having spent some time prior to this weekend touring part of the province from which the government House leader comes, that section of Cape Breton where 30 per cent of the labour force is out of work, having come from Newfoundland where 30 per cent, in real terms, of the adult population is out of work, having learned that in six months alone 20,000 Newfoundlanders have given up looking for work and have withdrawn from the labour market, and having listened to the President of the United States who campaigned in the past year on the basis that in his country unemployment was the number one economic issue and has decided that his administration would allocate billions of dollars to deal with unemployment, I was disgusted as a Canadian member of parliament to hear last weekend that the government, after four weeks of sitting back during the Christmas recess, and during that time hearing another forecast that unemployment in Canada in 1977 was going to be the highest at any time since World War II; and, the highest since World War II, I repeat, to the House leader who comes from a province that suffers from unemployment—

An hon. Member: Get back to the bill.

Mr. Broadbent: I am coming to the bill very soon, Mr. Speaker, because I am going to say that one of the advantages of television will be for the people of Canada to see the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) of this land get up, as he did today in the House when he was asked about unemployment, shrug his shoulders and turn to a parliamentary secretary to answer the question.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: How can you defend such a government?

Mr. Broadbent: I say to the government that if they do not smarten up soon they will be out on their collective asses. That is where they will be in terms of the concern of the people of Canada.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: Remember that, Allan.

Mr. Broadbent: The government House leader smiles. I ask him to go back to Cape Breton and talk to the workers in the Toyota plant who, as he probably knows, have been out of work for 11 months, men whose average age is about 40. They have been 11 months without employment and without any action by this government. Let him explain to them how he can bring in today this kind of bill.

● (1620)

Do hon. members know what bill the government is going to introduce next? It is a bill concerning the metric application to agriculture. That is the second priority. The first measure the government brings in is this measure, which any sane person in

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the twentieth century will accept. We are not going to dilly-dally around and shilly-shally like the Tories. We accept the committee report. We accept its recommendations. The Tories supported it in committee; now they are backing down again. We support the idea. But why could the government not come in today and recognize, as the President of the United States has recognized for some time, that this continent is in trouble? It is in trouble, but hon. members opposite sit and do nothing. They sit and do not care. I suspect they are sitting and hoping for the American economy to turn around and bail them out before the 1978 election. In the meantime, 800,000 Canadians go without jobs.

I conclude that the government has the wrong set of priorities, but that could be illustrated in a rather democratic way if we had television and radio brought into this House. We accept unequivocally—not in a qualified way—the recommendation in the resolution which has been brought before the House today for debate. I would have thought that the Tory members would have learned something from the experience in the Ontario legislature. The experience there has illustrated that there is no problem with television if implemented along the lines under which it is proposed to implement it under this resolution with a committee chaired by the Speaker of this House. Another legislature, the Tory legislature of Alberta, has had its proceedings broadcast and there have been no problems concerning the rights and immunities of members to which the federal Tories refer in their amendment. The experience in Canada and in countries abroad which have introduced radio and television has been positive.

Mr. Kempling: What is the rush?

Mr. Broadbent: The Tories ask, "What is the rush?" The Tories have had a hell of a time getting into the twentieth century, and they say that anyone wanting to get us into the latter part is rushing it. The result of the experience in other legislatures has been a feeling that an updating of media coverage is long overdue.

Not many people subscribe to or read *Hansard*. It is an important document, but it does not have immediate relevance to most people. Most people read the press, and fortunately the press has reported parliamentary proceedings from the outset. We have had radio for a long time, and I am pleased that the government House leader gave credit where it is due to one of my predecessors, a former leader of this party. When he was premier of the province of Saskatchewan, he did not hesitate or equivocate. He was the first premier in this land to introduce radio, which was then the new and expanding medium, to cover the proceedings of the legislature. That was 30 years ago. We are 30 years behind.

So by all means let us proceed with this resolution. We are not going to put up a series of debaters. We are not going to support an amendment which would delay its passage. We want it passed and implemented so that the people of Canada can have access to the proceedings of this House which they should have had many years ago.