

kind of a nothing motion. I do not want anyone to pick me up and suggest I am heartless about unemployment and do not give a damn. That is not the type of approach I am taking. The point is there is a real problem and people must search for real answers. If we are to receive help from members of the House, surely when there is an opportunity to present a motion which would bring about a really substantial debate on a really substantial and tough issue, opposition members could come up with something a little more promising than this.

I completely sympathize with the hon. member for Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe (Mr. Marshall). When I get a little further along in my remarks I believe he will see that he and I have a little in common. I wish, however, there was some evidence that the recognition of a common problem would start to bring forward some common solutions. It is a funny thing that the government is condemned for lack of foresight here when it seems to me a year ago when inflation was the so-called enemy, we were telling the provinces and the municipalities that if they did not co-operate with us inflation would be prolonged and the fight would become more difficult. Yet, the provinces and the municipalities went along their merry way and kept the fires stoked, so here we are.

An hon. Member: People were starving.

Mr. Osler: No one was starving then any more than now. There is a difference between starving and being out of work. Very few people are starving, thanks to things such as the welfare schemes and so on.

An hon. Member: Who is to pay the welfare costs?

Mr. Osler: Listen awhile and you might learn something. Anyway, a year ago the government tried, without very sound results, to get the provinces and the municipalities to co-operate. I seem to recall that one member on this side spoke of a province that has failed, for its own reasons, to co-operate with the federal government, which is trying to help in the unemployment situation. Nevertheless, I say that when the premier of my province, whom I admire personally, stepped off an aircraft after returning from the Federal-Provincial Conference a little while ago and said that the federal government is doing absolutely nothing to help Manitoba to fight unemployment, there is only one word that can describe his attitude. With all respect to the Premier of Manitoba, his statement is absolute "balls".

• (4:40 p.m.)

An hon. Member: What is that?

Mr. Osler: Balls; absolute balls.

Mr. Gilbert: That is another four letter word.

Mr. Osler: As long ago as June, the federal government stepped up the transfer of tax revenues to the provinces. Manitoba got \$12.5 million. Later, an extra \$23.4 million was made available for vocational and training schools. The province does not have to spend that money on schools until 1975; in the meantime, it can spend it on

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any damn thing it likes in the fight against unemployment. In addition, the province obtained \$8 million out of a \$160 million loan set aside for the creation of projects to fight unemployment. How our Premier of Manitoba can argue in Winnipeg that we are doing nothing to help my province in the fight against unemployment, I do not know. When he says that the federal government has done nothing to help the people of Manitoba, that is, just as I said before, "balls".

Mr. Gilbert: There it is again.

Mr. Osler: Yes. I hope the hon. member can spell the word.

Mr. Gilbert: There seems to be a great shortage of vocabulary around here.

An hon. Member: That vocabulary is being expanded.

Mr. Osler: Perhaps the hon. member's vocabulary is being expanded these days. In any event, it is nice to see the hon. member's education being furthered. It has been suggested that the government is doing nothing in the field of social assistance. It is my understanding that the federal government pays approximately half of almost all social assistance costs, and it certainly pays all of the unemployment insurance costs. The benefits of these have been raised by 10 per cent and will be raised considerably more as soon as the House will let us get on with the job. In any case, the federal government has made available loans and grants for provincial and municipal use, as everybody knows, including the Premier of Manitoba. It does not help when the premier of my province goes around saying that nobody is doing anything to help his province, when in fact the reverse is true. All indications show that our present situation is improving. On the other hand, it will not improve much more quickly, no matter what anyone does in a panicky way in trying to accelerate the improvement.

The thing that disturbs me is this. This is an allotted day for the opposition. The opposition has sufficient money with which, presumably, to employ competent research assistants. Surely, it could really examine the situation and come up with something worth while. We do not need to know the details of any opposition proposals; that would be against the game. It is the opposition's privilege to wait until it goes to the people to say how it would go about solving this problem. All we want are the broad brush strokes of suggestions; we want to know how they think some of these problems ought to be solved. In this country there is a long term problem; yet nobody on the opposition side of the House seems even to have recognized the fact.

An hon. Member: I see only eight opposition members present.

Mr. Osler: Only eight of them are here, and these are more intelligent looking than some of the others.

An hon. Member: That doesn't say much for the opposition.