

*Forces—Reinstatement in Employment*

he went on he seemed to suggest, to my mind, that industry had no soul; he seemed to think that those charged with responsibility of the pay envelope for large numbers of employees did not give much thought to them. I asked him to go into a huddle with his seat mate, the hon. member for Vegreville (Mr. Hlynka). It was my pleasure, when he came to Toronto some months ago, to take him round to certain establishments, where he was shown payrolls, not of ten or fifteen employees but of 200 in one establishment and the same number in another. When he went over their employment cards he found that these men knew no other boss, they knew no other job. He will say, I believe, that there are some industries, may I say most industries, in Canada to-day that have a soul, that have a heart, and that are anxious to do something on behalf of their employees.

MR. SHAW: On a point of order, may I say to my hon. friend that I did not cast any reflections on industry or the part which industry is playing; I criticized the financial system and the financial institutions of this country.

Mr. HARRIS (Danforth): I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that that is not a point of order, but I will try to answer the implication which is made. I wonder just how much the hon. member was helping employees and employers—financiers, if you will—and those who subscribe to victory loans and to everything else which go to make up our present war effort, when he questioned whether there was a sinister influence behind the government. Where are the sinister forces; where are these money barons who promote or suggest to administrations ruthless decrees as to how our country shall be operated? Did that help the idea which is in the minds of one and all of us at this time? I congratulate the hon. member upon the first half of his speech, but I ask him, before he gets over into the funny money ideas, to give some thought to the war picture as it obtains to-day.

When my hon. leader observed that this bill ought not to be necessary, he propounded a question; he did not say that it was not necessary. In every line of endeavour there are those who have to be tapped on the shoulder and told to observe the rules; they may be quacks in the medical profession; they may be persons operating without a licence; but in every vocation you find those who have to be told. For those who have no soul in their business, who are not concerned about the rights of others, by all means put such legislation on the statute books. The minister must exercise his authority to remind people of this type, whom he may let me call "pikers"

[Mr. J. H. Harris.]

—the minister and I understand that term—that there is a law on the statute books. Therefore I say, put this bill and other measures of a like nature on the statute books and you will help the general situation.

Let me go one step further. There is legislation, well worth-while legislation, known as unemployment insurance. I think perhaps you should have some employment insurance. There is provision in the statutes to-day for making inventory reserves in your financial set-up. I just wonder whether it would not be good business to legislate to permit employment of financial reserves to take care of post-war problems of this kind. If you are going to consider unemployment insurance for the employees, perhaps you might also give consideration to employment insurance for the employers, to see that they are kept in business to take care of the armed forces when they return.

The period we are now going through is just the close of another phase of the business cycle. We had a business cycle wherein efficiency engineers of all kinds came to the front and took charge of industry throughout Canada. They sat with stop-watches over an employee and his particular vocation to show how production might be speeded up, for example, from forty units to forty-five units an hour. These proceedings were necessary because the shareholders owning businesses were demanding returns on their investments. But one circumstance which was not, to my mind, put in the balance in that equation was the fact that the employees could not stand the pressure and the strain of high efficiency. When labour is plentiful that system may obtain, but when labour is scarce they slacken down on the degree of efficiency they demand from their employees. When labour is plentiful the soul of business goes out of the window; when labour is scarce the soul creeps back in. To my mind this legislation, in common with other laws of a like nature will help to keep some soul in business, and in the final analysis will go a long way toward meeting the post-war conditions which we now fear.

In the meantime I say to the administration, all the elements in this bill which will help the war effort are commendable, but let us get on with everything which has to do with the direct prosecution of this war, so that in the days to come it may be our privilege to meet in the broadest possible way the situation which we are thinking about now, rather than, perhaps, have someone else, the dictator, say what we are going to do—and that individual will be soulless.

Mr. W. R. MACDONALD (Brantford City): It is my intention to make just a few observa-