

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

allow the minister time for a complete answer. I do not see him here, but perhaps his parliamentary secretary is here and ready to reply.

I should like briefly to review the history of my question for the house. First, I asked a question on March 12 and Your Honour at that time ruled my question out of order as being more appropriate for a statement on motions. I therefore spoke on the matter again during the adjournment debate on March 17 and much to my surprise there was no one present on the government side to reply to my question. Neither the Minister nor his parliamentary secretary were present at that time. Accordingly, I rose the next day, Tuesday March 18, on a question of privilege and protested as vigorously as I could about the spurned fate of my question. At this point there was still no notice by the government. All remained calm and serene, so again I found myself unrequited. It has been said that hell has no fury like a lover spurned, so I was furious on Tuesday and remained so on Wednesday the 19th, whereupon I rose during the question period and asked the identical question I had on March 12. I was therefore not surprised, because of the consistency shown by Your Honour toward this type of question, to be ruled out of order again.

Again, I posted the question for debate for last Thursday night. The question then became, at least to me, a "cause célèbre", but before I could "célèbre" my cause I received a call from the Minister's office explaining the Minister was hors de combat and would I please postpone my question in order to allow the Minister to prepare what was termed at the time of the phone call to be a good answer. I really do not know what that means, but I am looking forward to hearing it. This I readily agreed to do and that is the reason I am here tonight. I should like to read my original question, which was asked on March 12:

Mr. Speaker, my question has to do with the critical unemployment situation, and recent reports to the government by the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities. Has the government any alternatives to recommend in respect of the unilateral cancellation of winter works projects in order to assist municipalities in the area of water utility pollution control and housing projects?

• (10:00 p.m.)

During the debate which followed on March 17, I cited the following matters: various protests from the municipalities that I represent over the unilateral cancellation of the winter works program; mounting welfare

roles in the municipality in which I live, Coquitlam; severe unemployment in British Columbia of 6.6 per cent, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics figures of March 13, and the apparent contradiction between the cancellation of the winter works program and the recommendations of the task force on housing for municipal servicing of land. It seemed to me a contradiction that we would cancel the program that would provide the very things which the task force recommended.

I shall not elaborate on these matters, because I have done so on earlier occasions. But I would like the minister to consider a further matter. We know there is high unemployment generally. We are aware of the problem facing university students with regard to summer jobs. We know that university students compete for job opportunities with the regular work force in the summertime, even though there are then expanded job opportunities. The situation will probably be of increasing concern as we proceed through the years.

Therefore, I ask the minister whether he has considered consulting the provinces with a view to providing some kind of assistance with regard to the fee structure and living and travel allowances of university students, so they will not be required to compete with heads of families. This situation should not be allowed to exist, because of the very nature of our economic forces. I believe the first priority of students is to study. As long as this situation persists, we will have this constant conflict.

I think we all agree that because of dissent, and all the rest of it, the image of university students is not at its highest point. I think we are moving into the situation where we shall have to provide free tuition and other amenities for university students so they will not need to compete with the regular work force, especially during times of high unemployment. I ask the government to outline with all possible speed, either this evening or later in a statement on motions, specifically what program it has in mind to assist municipalities with capital works in order to overcome the current crisis in Canadian employment.

Mr. Gérard Loiselle (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I want first of all to offer an apology to the hon. member for Fraser Valley West (Mr. Rose) for the fact that he did not receive an immediate reply the first time he raised his question on the adjourn-