

made available directly to the city of Toronto. The entire sum was to go to Metropolitan Toronto.

I sincerely hope that all hon. members from Metro ridings who continue to support the government, although with less and less enthusiasm with every passing day, will urge the government to try to remedy the huge blunder it has made in mismanaging the economy of the country by being helpful to Mayor Dennison and Chairman Campbell when they come to Ottawa. Even charity begins at home, but their requests are not charity; rather they are justice.

The care and attention lavished on the states and localities of the United States is in stark contrast to the degree of consultation and assistance to the local governments in Canada. Not only is an urban council and an environment council needed here, but so is a financial and economics council meeting quarterly, so that all levels of government will know the current situation and be in a position to assist with economic planning. I dare say that if such a council had been operative over the last few years, this current unemployment and welfare crisis would not be upon us. Britain is a unitary state and is just as aware of its municipal problems as of its foreign affairs; but over here no way is open to us, unless the federal government seeks agreement with the other levels of government. This it has a duty to do in a federated state.

I know that the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Andras), responsible for housing and urban affairs, has had his hands full with housing problems and has been doing a job in respect of them; but he has been seriously neglecting his responsibility for urban affairs. It is time that he turned his attention to some innovative short and long term solutions to the problems that we are dealing with in this debate today. I urge him to go to the United States, over to Britain and mainland Europe and learn from their experience.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I apologize to the hon. member. I must interrupt him at this point to bring to his attention that, pursuant to the agreement put forward and adopted earlier today, his time has expired. He may continue if he has the unanimous consent of the House. Does the hon. member have that unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

● (3:30 p.m.)

Mr. Ryan: I urge him to make these visits to foreign lands and not let constitutional hangups trouble him too much. Practically everything he will want to do can be done by agreement among the three levels of government and be perfectly constitutional, despite the weird and wonderful world of the Prime Minister. Where there is a will, there is a way, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Don Valley (Mr. Kaplan) seeks the right to ask a question of the hon. member. As the hon. member's time has expired, this can only be done with the unanimous consent of the House.

Alleged Non-Support of Employment Programs

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There does not appear to be unanimous consent.

[*Translation*]

Consequently the Chair now recognizes the hon. member for Villeneuve.

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I represent Témiscamingue riding and not Villeneuve.

In any case, I wish to express my sincere thanks to my colleague from Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow) who has given me the opportunity to speak ahead of him this afternoon. This courtesy does him credit and shows that in the House of Commons, whatever our political ideas, it is always possible to help one another from time to time. So I am grateful to him for having provided me with this opportunity.

The non-confidence motion moved by the official opposition holds nothing new. This leads me to say that identical causes generally produce identical results.

We could have read exactly the same non-confidence motion in 1961 when the country was administered by a Progressive Conservative government. In fact, there was in Canada one million unemployed at that time, and we could have read, and I quote:

That this House condemns the—

—Progressive Conservative—

—government's failure to foresee and take steps to provide for the escalating effects of its unemployment policy upon the social assistance funds of the provinces and municipalities and its failure to consult and co-operate with the provinces and municipalities in providing emergency financial support and employment programs.

Mr. Speaker, if, at that time, the Progressive Conservative government had taken the measures required to correct the situation, we would probably not have to face the present problem. At any rate, it is obvious that the No. 1 problem in Canada is unemployment, the consequence of which is poverty.

While the government attempts to fight unemployment and restore some measure of prosperity in Canada, there is not a single day when we cannot read in a newspaper, hear over television or radio that such or such an industry is in the process of closing down or curtailing production.

Here is a recent example: Massey-Ferguson has announced that 2,750 employees will be laid off, supposedly because it has too much equipment. In the textile, footwear, clothing, automobile industries, in short in every field, there is talk of lay offs, because sales are lagging.

In the lumber industry, the closing down of plywood and other plants is being considered because there is overproduction and the surpluses cannot be sold.

Let us see what is going on in the mining industry. In my own area, within a few weeks the Wasamac gold