

farmers and people in agriculture off the land. The government will not give them the concessions and the fair breaks they should receive.

I should like to draw some parallels between the unemployed wage earners in Canada and the rapidly increasing unemployed from the farms. If we go back to the Speech from the Throne, it does not say anything about helping Canadian farmers or the transportation problem other than the fact that transportation is a vital part of the industrial strategy. There is one line about transportation in the Speech from the Throne. It is irrelevant because no one can really say what is the industrial strategy of this government. Although transportation might be a vital part of it, we would like to know the industrial strategy and how it ties to keeping people employed, so that the employment rate which is affected by this bill does not rise over 4 per cent as it is doing now. It should remain under 4 per cent because of the resources we have in the country.

In the throne speech, as well, there is reference to an agricultural export commission to expand Canadian markets, but we are not dealing with this now to keep farmers on the land, to generate income, and to have the spin-off of employing people across the country. Also it referred to a meat import act. Where is that meat import act now? What is it doing to protect the markets which are being flooded by beef? Those markets were threatened by the drought in western Canada not so long ago. It is already too late in some areas because the markets are being flooded by livestock, thereby driving the prices down low.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Order, please. With great respect, I have listened to the hon. member for some moments and I have heard him talk about freight rates, the Crowsnest rate, and livestock. I realize one of the most difficult rules of the House of Commons is the rule of relevancy, but even though the current bill is an amendment to an existing act, and even though the subject of unemployment insurance is a very broad one—and I recognize the fact that occasionally the hon. member refers to unemployed—I still think it is in order for the Chair to ask him to direct his attention to Bill C-3.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

• (1550)

Mr. Anguish: Mr. Speaker, with all due respect I disagree with you. I am trying to draw a parallel between what this government is doing, what the Conservative party advocates and agrees with, and the farm population that I am familiar with as a member of Parliament who represents an agricultural constituency. The parallel is being drawn as to how this government and the Conservatives treat wage earners in this country, and I disagree with you, with all due respect, Mr. Speaker, that what I am saying is irrelevant to this bill. It is relevant to this bill in the parallel I am trying to draw, and at the conclusion of my speech I think the relevance of what I say

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will be obvious to you. I would ask you to let me proceed with the line I have been going on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Order, please. There is no problem in respect of the hon. member proceeding. The Chair is simply making the request that the hon. member give some consideration to the rule of relevance.

Mr. Anguish: With all due respect, Mr. Speaker, I plan on making it very relevant at the conclusion of the parallel between the farming population, the things that affect them, and the working population. I will proceed with that and try to tie my remarks as closely as possible to Bill C-3, an act to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act.

As I mentioned at the beginning, the two things I disagree with are that the bill places the onus for recovery of benefits on the premium payers and, secondly, it extends the variable qualifications across Canada as to how many weeks one has to work to qualify for unemployment insurance benefits, depending upon the area in which you live, within Canada.

Before I was interrupted, when you called me to order, I was trying to respond by drawing a parallel between agriculture, how farmers are being driven off the land by the policies of this government, as advocated by the Conservative opposition, and how in fact people are being driven out of jobs by these people moving in off the farm, so that even fewer are able to earn an income to provide a living with some dignity. I used examples of the auto industry and how that industry was failing, as is this government, to support people in agriculture. There are quite a bunch of failures, as the hon. member for Beaches has indicated.

There was very little in the throne speech under the first topic which was designed to respond to individual needs. In this regard we feel the government should have brought in long-term job-creation measures in order to employ Canadian people, thus reducing unemployment. There should be a policy and a program on the part of this government to reduce unemployment, working toward full employment, rather than having true unemployment figures in some areas as high as 30 per cent. We think it is realistic to hold the unemployment rate at 4 per cent or less.

What has this government done in responding to individual needs? It has raised the guaranteed income supplement to old age security by \$35 a month per household. Indeed, this is a noble gesture and it will put some money into the economy, but it does not respond to wage earners in the country in terms of creating jobs. All this does provide is the means within which people must live. Even at that, many old age pensioners and others receiving benefits from the guaranteed income supplement still live well below the poverty level. I think it is disgraceful that this government cannot enact policies and programs to put these people at a decent standard of living.

Having regard to the affirmative action talked about in the throne speech, that is all good and well, but the affirmative action on the part of this government in terms of giving women their rightful place in the private and public sectors has not been accomplished. Many studies have been conducted which