

Alleged Non-Support of Employment Programs

such as sheltered shops. For many people who cannot "hack it" on the treadmill from eight to five o'clock every day, communities must set up sheltered workshops with auxiliary counseling services, probably padre services, and nursing and medical services so that these people contribute what they can, because they will never be able to compete under the normal demands of a workaday world.

We should be looking seriously to earlier retirement of people. I was impressed by the concept of the United Auto Workers whose slogan was "Out at Thirty". After 30 years of service it should be possible for anyone who has worked all his life and contributed to be able to retire without sacrificing too much of his income. Many people would retire much earlier if it were not for the shellacking they would have to take on their income. For those people who are concerned about retiring too early and who find that to be an upsetting emotional concept, my view is that it is far worse to be retired permanently at the age of 25 than at the age of 55, and that is what faces many of today's young people.

I think, also, we should be looking at some of our agricultural surpluses and beginning to investigate what other countries have done in this area. We have many agricultural surpluses, such as in apples, butter and broilers. Just this week we will be shipping three million pounds of broilers worth almost \$400,000, subsidized by the Canadian people, to help the people of Japan. If we had a free food stamp program in this country, perhaps we could subsidize those people who need that food right here in Canada—and there are many people who do.

We talk about the demand for meat products but we seldom talk about the need, because these are two different concepts. I think we should be investigating a school lunch program as well. The point is not the give-away. The point is that the government has refused to provide enough funds except for marginal existence for many people. A food stamp program or a school lunch program would at least liberate some of the funds that we give to people for other purposes.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member, but I must do so to advise him that his time has expired.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Maurice Dupras (Labelle): Mr. Speaker, it is a great pleasure for me to take part in this debate on unemployment. For the past few days I have been listening to the speeches of opposition members and I wonder if people are justified in thinking that unemployment is something new in Canada. It seems as if that plague, unemployment, has just been discovered, but to my knowledge no solution was brought forward in order to eliminate unemployment.

As everybody knows, unemployment is due to several causes. Within a thirty-year period, we lived through the first industrial revolution, which brought the difficulties of the twenties, and I believe the experience we, Canadians as well as Americans, are living through now, could

[Mr. Rose.]

be called the second industrial revolution, a revolution brought about by intensive automation and a concern for efficiency that makes employment more and more scarce.

Moreover, the Canadian climate is one of the great causes of unemployment during winter months. The same can be said of the difficulties encountered by the American economy and, whether we like it or not, as soon as the Americans face difficulties in employment, we feel the after-effects.

One must not forget either that it is in the Canadian government's interest to fight inflation. People with fixed salaries, people who are not represented by powerful unions, people receiving pensions they paid with 1925, 1930 and 1940 dollars are in the throes of inflation. Now the Canadian government has taken that problem in hand. Ours is one of the industrialized countries that were most successful in their fight against inflation.

Let us see now if the unemployment we deplore so much is something new in Canada. I have here statistics that I should like to recall to the opposition members. In 1959, the unemployment rate was 6 per cent; in 1961, 7.1 per cent; in 1963, 5.5 per cent; in 1965, 3.9 per cent, in 1966, 3.6 per cent, in 1969 and in 1970, 4.7 and 5.9 per cent respectively.

Obviously, the unemployment problem is not new to us since we were already faced with it in 1957, 1958 and 1959. What steps did the government take to fight unemployment? It did manage in spite of everything to create 212,000 jobs in 1970. Some will say that it was not enough—and I agree with this—to give jobs to all the unemployed and to all the young people entering the labour market. However, for a year such as 1970, during which we successfully fought inflation, it is our opinion that 212,000 jobs is nevertheless a significant figure.

There are all kinds of programs to alleviate unemployment. Among others the government has initiated an urban renewal program which was launched in 1965 and which is helping municipalities, both Toronto and Saint-Jérôme where I live. In fact, this program which will be in force for several more years, is giving work to many seasonal workers.

Over the twelve months which preceded December 1, 1970, the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Marchand) and the officials of his department had been able to create 20,033 new jobs representing an aggregate investment of \$546 million. This expansion program will be stepped up in 1971 and it is hoped that the number of jobs created will be much higher in 1971.

The government recently introduced a bill setting up the Canada Development Corporation in order to allow Canadians to invest their savings in Canadian industries, in industries which belong to them.

The Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation's budget has recently been increased, a measure which will bring about a vigorous upswing in the building of low rent housing in Canada.

All sorts of actions have been taken to check unemployment. As every other country, we are faced with difficulties and the Europeans, keep saying that Canada is