

The Canadian Economy

variations throughout the years—7 per cent, 18.1 per cent, 13 per cent, and so on. In 1961 it reached 20.3 per cent and decreased thereafter. In September, 1971 22.6 per cent of those unemployed had been looking for work for seven months or more. That is startling.

I want to deal with my own province of British Columbia for a few minutes. The hard fact is that unemployment has been for years eating into the vitals of that province and its people. This is because of the one-sided development that has made us essentially a raw materials province, hewers of wood and drawers of water for the American economy to a large extent, as well as for parts of the Canadian economy. This is because Liberal governments have refused to put safeguards into legislation to provide for Canadian ownership, namely, 51 per cent control of our natural resources. As a result, British Columbians have had to ship out minerals and raw materials of all kinds as well as the jobs, enterprises and growth which go with them. With what result?

• (12:30 a.m.)

I checked today, and found that every pulp mill except those of Crown Zellerbach and MacMillan Bloedel, the two giants, has been shut down for at least one month this year. Rayonier has been shut down four times this year. Columbia Cellulose is closing its two mills at Castlegar and Prince Rupert for three weeks. In the metal mines, four have closed down, two silver and two copper, and at least three more are to close in the next six months. Why? Because there is no market at the present time. Talk about consumers! There are not any consumers available and this program will not be able to make them. What happens as a result? These people must crowd into towns, live on unemployment insurance and then get on social assistance.

I want to give something of the facts in Vancouver, the social assistance facts as they are today. I checked them today with the city social administration in Vancouver. The total number of social assistance cases in Vancouver today is 18,108. Remember, these are cases, not families. It means there are about 45,000 individuals in Vancouver receiving relief today at a total welfare cost of \$2.1 million a month in direct assistance which does not include administrative costs. The number of employable single men and women is 6,528, at a monthly cost to all three levels of government of \$533,000.

The Vancouver figures for social assistance are about 10 per cent higher than they were last year. Those of you who know Vancouver know that we have thousands of young people hanging around, young people who have never had jobs and no hope of jobs. Fifty thousand jobs for all of Canada under this program is a flea bite when it comes to the problem of employing our young people. These are problems that should be being faced, and have not been, by this government in any way, shape or form.

This is a costly program. Who is going to pay for it? As I say, the corporations are being let off their fair share with a 7 per cent reduction in taxes. Individual taxpayers are having much smaller concessions with a 3 per cent reduction. Once again the small taxpayers will get it in the neck. In my riding are many, many elderly people who have saved their homes by dint of the utmost scrimping, by cutting down on their food, trying to give up the drugs

[Mrs. MacInnis.]

and other things they need. These are the people who will have to pay an undue proportion of this \$1 billion program which is supposed to deal with our unemployment situation. In addition, I have no confidence that this program in all its vast ramifications and moneys will not result in vast empires being set up by those who are administering it, with spacious offices and all kinds of waiting rooms and people well equipped with telephones and well barricaded from the public. I fear this will take a large portion of the new funds, and the figures we have had on the manpower situation in the last five years have not been reassuring to me that this program will do any better.

Too many people have come to me, men and women alike, pointing out that they were well trained, having taken all the courses they have been allowed to take, and still have no jobs. It was perfectly foolish for the Minister of Finance to say in his speech tonight:

The on the job program is designed to encourage employers to prepare for future economic expansion and to ensure that trainees acquire solid skills to increase their earning capacities and to help them take advantage of new employment opportunities.

What new employment opportunities? That is what these people want to know. For years they have been going round and round like squirrels in a cage, taking all the training they can get and being told there are no jobs. They have been told by administrators in Manpower that they had better go on welfare—women have been told that—because this is better than to go on looking for non-existent jobs.

For the minister to say, in his engaging manner, that the Prime Minister is after all a man with a big heart and that it is a very nasty thing to say that a government under his auspices could have a bad program, is a pretty strange way to try to draw attention from what is actually happening. The government is trying to cure the present situation with the hair of the dog that bit it approach. The dog that bit it was the policy of making the laws of this country so lax that United States companies could come in and use our resources, control our resources with their capital, take over companies without permitting any secondary development in any province such as we should have.

Now the government comes along and says, "Sure, we shall increase our manpower supplies, increase our industrial training and that sort of thing and educate you up to PhD level." But today you can see people with PhD degrees walking around Vancouver looking for jobs. Knowing these people, it will be no wonder if they take a second look at this program. I hope the program will work, but I am telling you this: this program, Mr. Minister—

An hon. Member: "Mr. Speaker," surely.

Mrs. MacInnis: —will have to do a whole lot better than previous ones in the interests of those who are unemployed. The minister made me leery when he said the program was designed to encourage employers. I think this program should be designed to encourage the unemployed. It is precisely because the government has always wanted to put carrots in front of employers, to make them, hopefully, give jobs, that we are in the mess we are today.