

*Labour Conditions*

industry so they would be able to plan well ahead the steps they must take to meet the challenge of this second industrial revolution.

There is something else that concerned me when I read this resolution and when I heard the words of the Minister of Labour. He made some reference to increasing labour mobility and to arranging for payments to help workers to move from one area of our country to another. Certainly this matter must be taken into consideration. There is no question that if workers are willing and are interested in moving from one part of the country to another in order to take up employment for which they are suited, then we have an obligation and a responsibility to help them to do so in a manner which will bring about the least possible dislocation. However, what concerns me is that we might do something here by way of an approach whereby we feel that the workers primarily must be brought to the job rather than attempting, at least in the primary instance, to bring the jobs to the workers in the communities in which they and their families have spent their lives.

Mr. Chairman, we cannot tackle the problem of depressed areas, surplus labour areas, areas which have the effect of dragging down the whole economic effort of our country unless, as a primary aim, we work to bring jobs or economic developments to those areas which have been lagging behind the rest of our country. This was another point stressed by the Senate special committee on manpower and employment. That committee was made up of representatives in the Senate of both the Liberal and Conservative parties. If I may, I should like to quote briefly from page 6 of the report, as follows:

The achievement of a satisfactory rate of economic growth for the country as a whole may not, by itself, solve the unemployment problems of particular areas and regions which have long endured economic difficulties. The most serious problem in this respect lies in the Atlantic region. Over the long run there are only two solutions; either the people move out to better opportunities elsewhere, or better opportunities are made available to them where they are. The massive migration of the population is neither socially nor economically desirable, and we reject this possibility.

Those are the exact words of the report of the special committee on manpower and employment. I suggest then that, in putting into effect legislation of the type contemplated by this resolution, we must be careful that we still maintain as a primary goal the providing of jobs and the providing of economic development in those regions of Canada which need them so badly today, and that only second, do we try to bring about, by

some forced draft method, the movement of workers from one part of the country to another.

As I said, Mr. Chairman, there is some problem confronting one in commenting in a complete and detailed way when we have only this resolution before us. Certainly there are problems which can be tackled only through the co-operation of labour and management. Once this legislation is put into effect—and I hope it will be put into effect quickly—I certainly hope that more effective steps will be taken to bring labour and management together in order to work out their problems, not only in the field of automation but in other areas, than have been exhibited by the government in the past in some of the conferences it has held in this country. It is not enough to talk about these matters. The government must be willing to take the initiative in bringing labour and management together so they can work out these difficulties. I think they would be most willing and anxious to do so if the initiative or the impetus was given to them by our federal government and by our provincial governments as well, both working together in this field.

I referred to the technological changes that are sweeping across our world today as a second industrial revolution. I must urge and emphasize to those here this afternoon that if we are going to tackle, as we must, the problems of automation we must do so in a co-ordinated and organized fashion. I am greatly concerned about the possibility of diffusion of effort. Everyone who has studied this particular problem remarks not only upon its urgency but on the need for having one over-all body and one over-all approach to carry out the myriad programs which must be put into effect in order to deal with this second industrial revolution.

Let me therefore say, Mr. Chairman, by way of conclusion that certainly even before this day there was need to bring down legislation of this type. Certainly in the past five years this need was amply demonstrated and there was ample opportunity to tackle this problem before now. But since we have the opportunity, starting today, to begin to assume our responsibility in the area of guiding and leading our nation in dealing with this second industrial revolution, we should not shrink from it.

Mr. Chairman, it is only by accepting the leadership role which the country expects of us that we can begin to bring to our country the benefits of this second industrial revolution. In addition, we should make sure that there will not be any unwilling victims of