

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

warning. This Winter Works program was abandoned at a time when municipal governments, especially in the urbanized and rapidly urbanizing municipalities such as the one I come from, were all hard pressed to provide not only employment but much needed capital projects.

Consider for a moment the burgeoning civic welfare rolls. These are much larger than previous years because they reflect more, I think, than just seasonal unemployment; they reflect a critical unemployment situation which has been aided and abetted, at least in part, by the cancellation of the winter works incentive program.

I received some figures over the telephone from the municipality in which I live, the district of Coquitlam, and I should like to put on record the February welfare cost. In 1966, it was \$44,000; in 1967 it was \$55,000; in 1968 it was \$74,000; and for the month of February, 1969, \$116,000. These are rounded figures and have not been adjusted to population growth. I do not want to be accused of drawing misleading inferences because I do not believe that is necessary; the case is strong enough without that. The population has increased by approximately 6 per cent each year in this municipality, but these figures reflect a higher welfare cost than that.

Now, I should like to refer to some Dominion Bureau of Statistics figures released on March 13 concerning unemployment. We are told that 6.6 per cent of British Columbians are looking for work. In the Atlantic region, one out of every ten wage earners was unemployed.

In reply to my question I hope that the cabinet will not include in its response any nonsense about the work force being larger, in an attempt to clear the government of its responsibilities and its failure to solve the unemployment problem. Of course, there are more jobs, but there are more Canadians. We have to run faster to stay where we are. But the fact that more Canadians are working is of little comfort to a man who is unemployed and unable to find a job.

To get back to the winter works program, with all its faults, I may say that a brief submitted recently to the government by the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Reeves, a responsible group of citizens I think we would all agree, criticized the government's unilateral cancellation of the program as inopportune. The federation proposed instead a replacement program which would assist capital projects in housing, sewage treatment, pollution control and water systems, and

which would thereby brighten the bleak employment picture.

These proposals of the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Reeves are consistent with the report of the task force on housing, which at page 43 recommends:

Municipalities or regional governments, as a matter of continuing policy, should acquire, service and sell all or a substantial portion of the land required for urban growth within their boundaries.

The federal government should make direct loans to municipalities or regional governments to assist them in assembling and servicing land for urban growth.

This attitude, as expressed by the task force report, stands in stark contradiction to what happened when winter works got the axe. According to a recent survey by the federation, 50 per cent of 50 municipalities' planned projects included precisely such things as water systems, trunk sewers and storm sewers. It does not take any great genius to see the casual relationship between land serviced by water and sanitary sewers and housing; nor is it a great strain to recognize how pollution of the Fraser and Burrard Inlet is encouraged by the lack of adequate primary and secondary treatment plants. The relationship between initiating these capital projects and employment is also obvious.

In my municipality of Coquitlam, whose growth is roughly 1,200 new homes a year, much of the soil is now becoming contaminated because there is no expansion of the sewer system. This has been contemplated for at least the past three years. Yet, there is not even a primary treatment plant in existence, and all the while the sewers belch thousands of gallons of untreated effluent into the Fraser River. The urban renewal freeze constitutes an additional problem, but I have not time to discuss that tonight. In conclusion, I make a plea for a requisite member of the government to make a statement on motions on this subject in the near future. I think that would be a delightful idea, and I am glad the Speaker suggested it. The sooner that is done, the better.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order, please. The hon. member for Hillsborough.

Mr. Macquarrie: I thought there would be an answer from the treasury benches, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): This is an insult.

An hon. Member: The government is not interested in people.