

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SUTHERLAND: The hon. member is making an absolute misstatement when he says that the sick are not getting relief.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I did not make that statement.

Mr. SUTHERLAND: The province of Ontario is taking care of every person who is suffering.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I made no such statement as the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Sutherland) is suggesting.

I am trying to say that the need for free medical attention is becoming so great that it is getting beyond the capacity of our local agencies. I am urging that it should be recognized as being just as much a charge as food, clothing, fuel or shelter.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): It is.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: It is not recognized by the Dominion government. This government gives approximately one-third of the cost of food, clothing and shelter, but makes no provision whatever for medical services. It may be that in the constituencies represented by some hon. members there is so little poverty that the local people are able to take care of it, but I know that in my own city such is not the case. We are more or less the distributing centre for the whole west and we have been very hard hit by this depression. Under the circumstances we have possibly an exceptional load to carry. I know of only one other city that is in anything like a similar position, that is the city of Vancouver. In these cities it is becoming next to impossible for the local agencies to carry the whole burden, and the point I am trying to make is that the Dominion government should assume a share of this kind of relief. As long as relief was thought to be a temporary matter, as long as it was hoped that prosperity was around the corner, the people could endure things for a little while and in some cases defer medical attention for a few weeks or months, but the situation has extended to such a length as to become very serious.

There is another question which has not been touched, the young people of this country. I am told that something like 100,000 young people are leaving our public and high schools and colleges each year to enter the industrial field. Very few can be absorbed, and it seems to me that if there is to be no general scheme under which unemployment may be lessened, then the least we can do is to adopt some plan such as we had during the war and pro-

vide for the continued education of these people. We should arrange for their attendance at night schools, at manual training schools, and so on, so that they will not be forced to drift on the streets. There are some here who will say that education is purely a provincial matter; others may say that in their localities the schools are looking after these young people. That may be, but I submit that right across this country there are many localities in which the schools are not able to take care of even their regular work, much less provide for the young people who have no opportunity of employment. I place this matter before the house not as a question of regular education which must be carried on but as a relief measure which should be adopted immediately so that instead of our boys becoming bandits, as we were told the other day was the case by the Minister of Justice (Mr. Guthrie), and being forced into the penitentiaries, we could either provide them with steady work or make special provisions so that they may be saved from a life of complete idleness and possible criminality.

I should like to take exception to the closing words of the minister. He suggested that we must not rely too much upon the state, that the unemployed should take advantage of the opportunities open to them. Everyone will admit that people should take advantage of the opportunities open to them, but the fact is that hundreds of thousands of these people have no opportunities open to them. There is no doubt of that, there are no opportunities open. It is almost adding insult to injury to lecture these people and suggest to them that if they only had a little more initiative they would get out and find work.

Mr. GORDON: Mr. Speaker, I think I have a right—

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. GORDON: —to deny ever having said what the hon. gentleman has just stated I did say. I never lectured anybody.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Make him withdraw.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I have nothing to withdraw.

Mr. GORDON: I do not care whether the hon. member withdraws the statement or not; I never said it.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: The minister said that we must not rely too much on the state, but that people should take advantage of the opportunities open to them.