

Employment and Immigration

bill will make the Unemployment Insurance Act more restrictive, more tight, and work hardships on ordinary citizens.

The hon. member for Northumberland-Miramichi supports the bill and is running interference in this House for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. Cullen). He is out there in front, taking the flack for the minister, and in his riding 30 per cent of the people are unemployed.

Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi): You are talking nonsense.

Mr. Nystrom: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member often speaks while sitting on his brains. He likes to interject while sitting in his chair. If we had television in the House of Commons, his constituents would see what kind of a guy he really is, that he is not looking after their interests. In fact he would probably no longer be their member. That is why many members in the House oppose televising these proceedings.

● (2100)

If the hon. member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. MacFarlane) has a question, I will be pleased to answer it. He does not have a question. I wish the Liberals would get up and make some speeches in the House. They seem to get sensitive when we talk about the problems affecting the ordinary Joe. He comes from the same town as the hon. member for Hamilton West. Both those members are concerned about how strong the NDP is in that city.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Nystrom: I know that in the case of Hamilton West the NDP stole a seat from his party in the election held two or three weeks ago.

Mr. MacFarlane: Not my party.

Mr. Nystrom: There is no difference, really. The Conservative party is the same as yours. You are birds of a feather. There is no difference in philosophy. You can see how sensitive the Liberals and Conservatives get when we in this party start talking about the real issues affecting ordinary people.

This bill, and this motion moved by the Minister of Manpower and Immigration, will tighten up the Unemployment Insurance Act. The hon. member for Hamilton West was misleading the House by saying that the hon. member for Nickel Belt is against job creation. The hon. member for Nickel Belt has talked about job creation time and time again, but not the type of job creation that is in this bill.

The job creation in this bill is another handout by the government to large corporations. It is the Santa Claus that we see so many times from Liberal and Conservative governments.

We have here what they call work sharing. What does work sharing mean? It means that if a company has to lay off one quarter, one third or one half of its workers, the company can get some help from the Unemployment Insurance Commission to keep the workers working. They can work half days or half

[Mr. Nystrom.]

weeks and collect not only part of their salary from the company, but be subsidized by the Unemployment Insurance Commission.

Mr. Alexander: Don't look at me when you talk about work sharing; look at him.

Mr. Nystrom: The hon. member for Hamilton West is becoming very sensitive. As soon as I start talking about an issue on which he agrees with the government, he gets very sensitive. That is why when he spoke he did not say anything concrete, but only called the hon. member for Nickel Belt a few names. When you start calling people names, you know you have lost the argument.

The work sharing program is not going to create any jobs. It would only be a subsidy program by the Unemployment Insurance Commission to some of the large corporations. That is all it will be. The hon. member for Hamilton West knows that. That is why he supports this motion. The Minister of Manpower and Immigration knows that, and that is why he has moved the motion before the House at the present time.

We know there is a real deficit in the unemployment insurance fund. In 1977 the plan is going to cost some \$3.8 billion. The guess for next year is around \$4 billion. However, we do not have any programs to create jobs in a concrete sense. We have Liberals and Conservatives supporting a program whereby the unemployment insurance fund will subsidize a few large companies.

The second part of the motion before us deals with what is called creative use of unemployment insurance benefits. What are creative uses? I would like more elaboration on what is meant by that. If there is an archaeological dig in the home city of the hon. member for Nickel Belt, Sudbury—

An hon. Member: They won't find anything there.

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Clermont): Order please. I recognize the hon. member for Yorkton-Melville (Mr. Nystrom). The hon. member for Hamilton West (Mr. Alexander) spoke a few minutes ago, so if he wants to speak later, he will have the opportunity, but for the moment, I recognize the hon. member for Yorkton-Melville.

Mr. Nystrom: Yes, I understand quite well, Mr. Speaker. Thank you. I think I still have four or five minutes to continue my speech on the motion of the Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. Cullen).

[English]

I was talking about creative use of unemployment insurance benefits. I was saying that supposing there was an archaeological dig—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Clermont): Address yourself to the Chair, please.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!