

When these things come along in their right order and in their right place they will receive sympathetic consideration. I say to the Minister of Labour and to the administration which surrounds him: Do not in any way dissipate the funds which have been paid in by employees whomsoever for any purpose whatsoever. Keep the fund inviolate and by itself.

Those of us who have been privileged to make up substantial payrolls are concerned when we see the pay envelope being desecrated by demands of provincial and dominion administrations. In common with the minister I am British and I consider that a man's pay envelope is something that is almost sacred. I consider it to be almost sacrilegious for any administration to go into a man's pay envelope and take out unemployment insurance and a dozen other things.

When the man comes home to his wife he brags that he is making \$30 or \$40 a week. He then hands her his pay envelope, and I hope the Canadian workman will always hand over his pay envelope to the woman who knows how to spend it and how to conserve it. He thinks he has earned \$40 a week, but when she opens up the envelope she finds only \$30. There have been deductions of \$10.

I may be Victorian and old-fashioned, but really and truly I cannot bring myself to the point where I believe that that is fair, decent or right. I think every dollar a man earns should be in his pay envelope, so that his wife can receive it. Even if you have to come along and collect it afterwards, collect it as best you can and God help you. I think it is wrong to interfere with a man's pay envelope, especially a workingman.

There has been such a continuity and extension of this practice during the last two or three decades that some of us who have the privilege of filling pay envelopes throw up our hands in holy horror. We cannot explain to our employees what has happened. These men could not tell you on their oath how much has been taken from their pay envelopes for unemployment insurance. If the Minister of Labour told them that \$450 million had been extracted since 1940 they could not understand it. All they think about is their take-home pay. Their wives can spend only 80 per cent of the money their husbands have earned. That is all that is contained in the pay envelope. This may not be parliamentary, but I think it is a sneaky way to take it away. They do not even know it is gone. All they know about is what is left in the pay envelope.

Let us be honourable. Let those who are charged with the administration of Canada's

[Mr. Harris (Danforth).]

affairs see that that fund of half a billion dollars is not dissipated. It should be reserved and conserved so that it can keep on earning \$30,000,000 a year as it did last year. However, the rate of interest has gone down from four per cent to three per cent. We should save it for these people for that day which will come when they will need it.

History will repeat itself, but I hope it will be a long time before we have difficult times. We are getting so used to good times that it is going to shock a lot of people when the difficult days come. I hope the Minister of Labour will listen not to the ideas of some of our socialist friends, and I am thinking of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), who bewails the fact that there is nothing in this for sickness insurance. Leave the blessed thing alone. We will tackle sickness insurance when sickness insurance needs to be tackled. Leave the unemployment fund intact because it may be needed. Lloyd George lived long enough to see it needed in England. I hope the minister will live long enough to see this party on this side of the house administer it in Canada on behalf of him and his friends.

Mr. MITCHELL: That is the only time you will need it, when you are over here.

Mr. HARRIS (Danforth): Thank you. I turned my deaf ear so that I could not get it. I do hope that this fund will not be dissipated in any way whatsoever, and that the minister will not listen to the blandishments he may receive from the left particularly, and perhaps the odd one from the right. Leave the resolution intact as it stands, inviolate. Put it through this house and it will get some support in the years to come, and this administration which is looking after it in our interests will receive the endorsement of the people of Canada along with the endorsement of those who have the privilege of sitting on this side.

Mr. G. K. FRASER (Peterborough West): Mr. Speaker, on March 23 I asked the Minister of Labour (Mr. Mitchell) a question and I should like to read it now. It was prompted by a resolution that was passed by the city council of Peterborough and forwarded to me, a copy of which I showed the minister. The question may be found on page 2504 of *Hansard*, and reads as follows:

Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. As municipal welfare departments are receiving many applications each day for public assistance from unemployed persons during the time that these persons are waiting to receive their first cheque from the unemployment insurance commission, and as the minister knows this welfare is charged one hundred per cent to the municipi-