

At this hour of the evening I am not going to attempt to deal with many of the things I shall say later on that subject. I just wish to say that I think the arrangement of debate in the house is unfortunate. In my opinion, the debate on the speech from the throne would have been over by now if the government had decided to put the matter before the house, follow through with it and finish it. This debate will be adjourned tonight and brought up again next Wednesday. In the meantime Ontario and Quebec members will go home to their constituencies, and next Wednesday many hon. members will be back here to make speeches which otherwise perhaps would not have been made at all. I consider it unfortunate that the subject matter before the house last evening, a serious and important matter on which something should be done immediately, is to be continued on Monday. We shall start that debate all over again, with hon. members coming back from their ridings bringing material from newspaper editors and anyone else who may have some thoughts on the matter. In my opinion, the public are badly confused in trying to follow what is going on in this House of Commons. There is no co-ordination. A subject appears in the press today, and it means something. It is out tomorrow; something else is on, and it is beginning to look as though this house had not the slightest idea of what it was doing. I believe hon. members opposite, and particularly members of the cabinet, should give some thought to that point. The public should be kept informed, but certainly that cannot be done through the press or in any other way with the method of debate we are following in this house.

The particular subject matter I wish to discuss this evening has reference to the part of Canada from which I come. In a press dispatch dated Ottawa, January 29, the Department of Labour issued a statement

under this heading: "Darkest spots in Canada's employment picture are the industrial areas of Cape Breton Island and Pictou county in Nova Scotia, the labour department disclosed tonight." That is the heading over a press dispatch emanating from the Department of Labour of this government. Those are not very nice headlines. When I left that part of the country the situation was such that in the very near future it will be necessary for the provincial and federal governments to institute some unemployment relief measures there. Another headline in the *Halifax Herald* said: "Employment picture grim for Canada's forty-five age group." Since the termination of the war and the swing over to a peacetime economy, industry has gone through what it went through after the last war, what it terms a rationalization process. In plain English that means they get rid of all the deadwood. Anyone who is not considered 100 per cent productive must be relegated to the scrap heap. If you are an industrial worker in Canada today and are looking for a job, if you have reached the age of forty-five you are not wanted. You are too old.

I see you are getting uneasy, Mr. Speaker, so I move the adjournment of the debate.

On motion of Mr. Gillis the debate was adjourned.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. GIBSON (Hamilton West): On Monday, as was understood by all parties before the adjournment last evening, the house will resume the debate on item No. 8 on today's order paper, the motion to set up a select committee. If that is concluded we shall continue with the debate on Bill No. 3.

At eleven o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.