

*Unemployment*

must pay on educational equipment. I suggest that this government, when the main burden of roads and schools is on the municipalities, ought to give them this minor relief.

The Winnipeg labour council goes on in item No. 2 to say that the federal government should take measures by providing out of the consolidated revenues extended benefits for those who have exhausted their unemployment insurance benefits, but are still unemployed. The council states that the government should give them some form of assistance. One of the unhappiest groups in this country today must be those whose benefits have run out and who know that there is no work available for them in the communities in which they live. They have to exist on something. What happens is that they become a charge upon the municipality and, too frequently, upon those who are least capable of withstanding the financial burden.

The labour council then asks that there should be a nation-wide public assistance program to provide for workers not covered by unemployment insurance. There are hundreds of thousands of these workers. At least 20 per cent of our labour force are not covered by unemployment insurance. What happens to them when they find their jobs gone, when they find themselves dismissed, or when a plant is closed down? What hope is there for them except to go on under a form of relief known as municipal assistance? And, once again, the government leaves it entirely to the municipality to bear the financial burden of that assistance.

Then the labour council asks that there should be increased unemployment insurance benefits. After all, if this is a democracy in the modern sense of the word then surely there are certain things which go along with it, and it seems to me that in a democracy a man has the right to work. There has to be a bill of social rights as well as a bill of human rights. Surely a man has a right to work in a modern democracy. If through no fault of his own he becomes penalized by unemployment, then I do not think it is right that the family should have to bear the brunt of that penalty. In other words there is a case which can be made out in economics and a case which most certainly can be made out in morality for very much larger payments to the unemployed from the unemployment insurance fund than they now receive.

One of the results of increasing unemployment insurance payments would be to create more demand in the country, to stimulate demand, and therefore to that extent to stimulate employment in other areas.

Another point raised by the labour council is that the government should, by increased

efforts, promote exports through special trade missions and trade agreements with specific countries, and should lower the barriers of international trade generally. I hear in this house frequently, even during this session, this synthetic and phony fight between Liberals and Tories as to which is the low tariff party in Canada. They are both high tariff parties; that is all there is to it. The Liberals will keep the tariffs up and even increase them as long as it suits their particular purpose. But by increasing tariffs we are strangling trade, and by strangling trade we increase unemployment, and the effect is bound to be seen throughout the whole body of our society.

Then we have this labour council asking for adequate measures to maintain and increase farm purchasing power, because the workers of Canada know that when the purchasing power of the farmer goes down there will be unemployment. The urban workers and the rural workers are completely interdependent. When things are going well on the farm, when there is a high farm income, the farmer spends that income in the city, and when he does that in the cities there is high employment and in turn the city worker buys back those things which the farmer himself produces. One group cannot be well off and the other hope to exist not even reasonably well-off; the two are too completely interconnected. Therefore one of the basic attacks which should be made on this problem of unemployment is first of all to increase farm income so that farmers can buy the products of their brothers in the cities.

Another matter which the labour council brings up is this. They ask the federal government to take measures to combat unemployment by substantially increasing Canada's contribution to the Colombo plan and to the United Nations' technical assistance program. Obviously the labour unions of this country are very much further ahead than the government in connection with this matter of assistance to the underprivileged countries. It is an easy matter to get a vote through this house to give arms and equipment to other countries. It is confoundedly difficult to get through a vote that will give economic assistance to the underprivileged countries of the world, and those are primarily the countries of Asia. What they need above all today is capital assistance so they can start to bring themselves up from the poverty in which they now exist. Asia is going to become industrialized, and if we are wise we shall be playing our part now amongst our friends in Asia in helping that industrialization.

This policy would have several effects. One, it would create friends for us in Asia; two, it