

*Proposed Committee on Unemployment*

or the other things that are necessary. I suggest that the minister should give some consideration to stepping that right up. The second thing he should do, and do immediately, is extend the unemployment insurance benefits until there is work available for those who are now unemployed because of technological and other reasons.

There are a lot of people today whose benefits have run out. The supplementary benefits have helped them and will help them until about April 15, but after April 15 there will be nothing for them. I heard many people say during the discussion of external affairs that there is a struggle in the world today for the minds of men. If that is true, what do hon. members think of the state of mind of a man who has seen two world wars, who took part in one and who sent his children to the second? Those world wars were to end war, to make a new world and all that kind of thing. All of a sudden, eight years after the last war, he finds himself without employment, he finds himself looking into the glass right back to 1939.

It is all right to give aid to countries outside of Canada. That is all to the good; but the first minds that we should take care of are the minds of the Canadian workers and the Canadian people generally. Many of these men see their unemployment insurance benefits running out. When a man is in that position his mind is not going to be too receptive to slogans about democracy and freedom. He will ask you "Where is my freedom?"

I submit that there should be an extension of these benefits to guarantee to those men, who have been displaced because of many reasons, that they are going to have something to support their families until gainful employment is found. Responsibility should be assumed for those who are eligible for unemployment insurance and have exhausted their benefits.

There are a number of people in this country who are unemployable because of handicaps of one kind or another. Many of them live in parts of the country where there is no available employment. I submit that the minister and the government should get together with the provinces in order to iron out the question of jurisdiction over these unemployables, these people who cannot be employed because of some slight handicap. I believe that if these steps were taken immediately and you advertised what you were going to do, there would be some hope for these people, who could then begin to look forward. As it is now they are pretty discouraged.

The official opposition has suggested setting up a committee of the House of Commons as we did in connection with price maintenance, prices and all those things, but that offers no hope. What we want is action, and we want it now. Therefore I move, seconded by the hon. member for York South (Mr. Noseworthy):

That all the words of the amendment after the words "this house is of the opinion that" to the end of the amendment be deleted and that the following words be substituted therefor:

"the serious and mounting unemployment situation now facing this country calls for immediate action by the federal government to prevent further economic distress."

I am reasonably sure that the hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra (Mr. Green) will vote for this subamendment. He is always so fair and reasonable. We are very good friends and I am sure that after sober reflection he will realize that with the little time he had to think about the subject, setting up a committee is not the action that should be taken. I know that he is a man of action. He wants action. He always demands action. In this case I think he should say, "I am quite willing to let the amendment I moved go by the board, and I will back the member for Cape Breton South."

I ask the government to adopt this subamendment without further delay and get busy and show us some action in connection with this whole question of unemployment.

**Mr. Speaker:** Before I read the amendment to the amendment I should like to ask the hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra (Mr. Green) if he would not correct his own amendment so that instead of asking for the creation of a select committee, the standing committee on industrial relations be called upon to examine into and report upon the actual unemployment situation throughout Canada. I do not want to appear to be splitting hairs but, as hon. members know, it has been the practice to refer matters pertaining to labour, unemployment and employment to the standing committee on industrial relations. According to citation 604 of Beauchesne's second edition a standing committee is described as follows:

A committee which is appointed beforehand, for the consideration of all subjects of a particular class, arising in the course of the session, is denominated a "standing" committee.

If the hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra, and the seconder, the hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker), do not object I would suggest that the amendment should read as follows, with the preamble remaining as it is:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that this house is of the opinion that the standing committee on