

Supply—Labour

new jobs have been created but, rather, unemployment in wintertime has been replaced by unemployment in the summertime. This has been brought to the attention of the government not only during discussions this year but also last year when an indication was given to the Minister of Labour that in so far as seasonal unemployment is concerned many of the municipalities which undertook works simply postponed the works from summer to winter, the effect of which was simply to postpone unemployment in wintertime to unemployment in summertime.

The other point I should like to make is that communities suffering from a high incidence of seasonal unemployment have found themselves incapable of participating in the winter works program to any great extent because of the high level of cyclical unemployment they have experienced this year and the encumbent financial burden of increased welfare payments. Communities such as the city of Ottawa, for instance, where there is not a high level of unemployment, have been able to take advantage of winter works projects to a greater extent than communities which really need them. This, I think, is a factor which should be taken into consideration with regard to this whole matter of seasonal unemployment.

There are two suggestions I should like to make and then I shall resume my seat. They are a repetition—and I think they need to be repeated—of suggestions which have already been advanced by those of us who sit on this side of the chamber. They are, first, the establishment of a municipal loan fund, and, second, the incorporation in the winter works program of a formula on a sliding scale of federal participation depending on the amount of unemployment in a particular area. That would have the effect of insuring that the winter works program had its greatest impact in distressed areas. As a deterrent to seasonal unemployment and as a project to assist employment we do not think that what has been advanced by the government meets the situation at all, and now I have reference particularly to the formula which was brought down by the Minister of Labour having to do with accelerated depreciation. It is our opinion that the two suggestions I have just made would meet the situation far better.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): This item is one calling for the provision of a further amount of \$65,000 to supplement the amount previously voted in the main estimates. It has nothing whatever to do with the municipal incentive winter works program. As I pointed out after the hon. member for Laurier had

launched into his remarks, this has to do with the effort made to encourage others than municipalities to undertake what measures may be open to them with a view to extending employment in the winter months. This is an offer that has been made by the Department of Labour, and with very encouraging results, to encourage people to do work in the winter and to undertake the job of creating work that can be done in winter months but is not always done then, for some reason or other.

This item is designed to provide the sums that have been expended for publicity in this regard, directed to bringing home to people their responsibilities in this respect, and the opportunities that do exist for the undertaking of work during the winter months. This lies completely outside the field of the municipal winter works incentive program. That is a matter that was undertaken, in so far as the estimates are concerned, under an item that was brought in with an earlier group of supplementary estimates. If we are going to have a debate on that I will be happy to participate in it but with respect, that lies completely outside the ambit of this present item.

Mr. Benidickson: In view of the remarks just made by the Minister of Finance, I take it that this involves some unanticipated items of advertising and promotion that would have an ancillary effect with respect to the enlargement of the winter work. Perhaps it includes advertising such as I have here "Department of Labour—Do it Now with a Small Business Loan". Perhaps that is one of the items that was not contemplated when the main estimates were provided more than a year ago, and perhaps advertising of this kind would be provided for in the vote we have before us, is that so?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): That particular advertisement may have been included in the scope of the main original estimate. I cannot say precisely whether it was included in the sums provided for in the supplementary estimates now under consideration, but the increase that is provided for here, in the appropriation for this total purpose, arises in part out of the fact that after the main estimates were introduced in the house for the fiscal year 1960-61, the chartered banks indicated their willingness, when this matter was discussed with them, to service home improvement loans. This type of loan was extended by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation to include the owners of rental properties. The winter employment committee within the Department of Labour recommended that, in view of the need to give