

anticipation that we would be presented by the government with a measure that would deal with what I believe has been artificially inflated by the government for its own purposes. I refer to a situation which has consequences arising out of the action of the United States government.

I hope the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson) will remain. It seems to me we have seen two ministers performing here today much in the nature of two hunters in big game country who are busy getting ready to set off. You expect them to go hunting for moose and bear, but they say "Oh, no; we are only hunting for squirrels and rabbits". That is precisely what the two ministers performed like today—rabbit or squirrel hunters. They gave us practically nothing. The bill introduced by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Pepin) is really but a bandaid. That is all it is. It is a small measure which promises nothing.

It was interesting to listen to the Minister of Finance juggle figures back and forth in order to tell the story he wanted to tell. One could take much the same figures and come up with a rather different result. If the Minister of Finance does not believe that—and a number of government backbenchers seem to think other than I do—why does he not tell those figures to the thousands and thousands of unemployed in this country and see whether they will believe everything is all rosy? The Minister of Finance tonight had almost the unmitigated gall to tell the unemployed they never had it so good because the situation in the country was never so good. We know very well that is not the case and that there will be more unemployed. It is unfortunate, but we will see more unemployed as the winter comes along. I venture to say that this is the stage which is being set by the government so that it can blame any increase in unemployment on the results of the United States action.

In respect of the remedial action to be taken by the board which is to be set up under this bill, it will be months before anything can be accomplished. It will be months before anything can be done under this bill.

**Mr. Pepin:** Before what?

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** Let us have that again.

**Mr. Pepin:** Before what?

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** It will be months before there are any concrete results and before some of the, shall we say, inexactitudes, generalities and uncertainties about which the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) spoke this afternoon are resolved. The Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce knows this board will not be set up and functioning until December at least.

**Mr. Pepin:** Let us pass the bill.

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** We passed the bill in respect of the Canada Development Corporation and we have not heard about it since.

**Mr. Stanfield:** We will pass the bill if you fellows stop passing the buck.

### *Employment Support Bill*

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** We have not had anything in respect of the Canada Development Corporation. The minister knows full well that much the same mechanism was required as a result of the Kennedy round concessions. It took not weeks but several months for it to work at all effectively. It will be the same in respect of this particular operation. It will take several months before it is functioning.

**Mr. Pepin:** Place your bets.

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** I will tell the minister privately what I am prepared to bet. It will take several months before the first case is heard and adjudicated. The minister this afternoon did not tell us much more than was contained in the press release we already had. The minister actually gave us a beautiful exposé written by the information officers of the department.

**Mr. Pepin:** That is not true.

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** The minister read it in that manner; that is what it sounded like. Did it come from Information Canada? I would ask the Minister of Transport (Mr. Jamieson) whether he relies on Information Canada to write his speeches. Yes, we know he can snort. That is the estimate he has of that organization. This Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce did not give us the information we wanted. Certainly the Leader of the Opposition and myself had indicated we would support him in principle depending upon what he told us, but this afternoon he did not tell us very much.

**Mr. Pepin:** What do you want to know?

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** As a matter of fact, if the minister is in such a great hurry to pass this bill he should have the regulations. If this bill were passed, say tomorrow, it could go to the finance committee this week and then the minister would appear and say he does not have the regulations. Let us have the regulations.

**Mr. Pepin:** Place your bets.

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** Will the minister have the regulations? If they would be ready for Thursday or Friday, are they not ready now?

**Mr. Pepin:** They will be ready on time.

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** Oh, they will be ready on time—about the end of next week! These are the things we want to find out. Clause 18, for one, is amazing. Incidentally, this bill has a great number of deficiencies in it. I am surprised the minister is prepared to turn a bill like this in to the Finance Committee, because there will have to be amendments since there are too many loose ends in it. In any event, before we will accept the bill we want answers in respect of who may qualify, how the amounts will be computed, what we are going to do and all these other uncertainties which were advanced by the Leader of the Opposition, the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis) and others.

This acceptance is not an acceptance in principle. This is a motion to refer the bill to the Standing Committee