

Unemployment Assistance

which will have to deal with the administration of the act. If it does not work satisfactorily the municipality will have to take the responsibility. The municipality now collects taxes from real estate and I am quite sure that houses are not going to be out of work. It will be the home owners and other people in the country and it seems to me that the administration should be the responsibility of and be tied in with the people who in fact collect the taxes which are eventually to be used for this purpose.

I do not think I can emphasize too strongly the fact that we have gone too far along the road of permitting the municipality to be put in the position where if there is any tightening at all of the expansion that is taking place in this country it is going to be bankrupt just as it was in the 1930's. If there is any responsibility for that condition it will belong right here in this house.

The attitude of the government in connection with the plight of the municipalities reminds me of the story of a man who had bought a burro. A friend admired it very much and he finally said, "You have a lot of children, you take it and use it, but always be kind to it, be good to it or it won't do things for you." The friend took it home and put one of his children on it and it would not move. He gave it sugar, he patted it, but nothing happened. So he phoned his friend and told him that he could not get the burro to do anything and the friend said he would come right over. He came over and he said, "Give me a piece of two by four." He then hit the burro right between the eyes. His friend said, "Oh, but you said to be kind to it." He said, "Yes, but first you must get his attention."

I submit that as far as the municipalities are concerned we are not going to get any help for them unless we keep on hammering away here day after day. If I were asked for a formula as to what should be done I would repeat: Let us divide the taxation field; let this government collect the money to do those things for which it is responsible; let the province collect the money to do those things for which it is responsible, and let the municipality collect the real property taxes to enable it to provide those services for which it is responsible. If we do that then once and for all we will get away from this type of piecemeal legislation, and that is all I can say it is.

Mr. Martin: Mr. Speaker, perhaps I could just say—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: If the hon. minister speaks now he will close the debate.

Mr. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, before the minister concludes the debate I should like to say a word or two in connection with this bill. I am rather surprised at the way in which the minister has introduced this legislation into the house. This is a matter of great importance and it deserves a great deal of study. The bill itself is complicated and when the agreements tabled in the house on January 11 are read over you find that there are still more complications; yet the minister is in a hurry to get this through. At the resolution stage he suggested that discussion might be postponed until we had the bill in front of us. Now that we have the bill in front of us the minister wants us to postpone discussion until we are in committee.

Mr. Martin: I am sure the hon. member for Hamilton West (Mrs. Fairclough) could explain to my hon. friend the reason why. I would not want to mention the reason publicly as it does not concern me personally.

Mr. Churchill: The minister must accept full responsibility for anything in the way of legislation under his own department. He may have all sorts of reasons for haste in this matter, but this is a serious public undertaking, and I think the minister, who has been years in office, should be fully competent at the present time to carry on anything of this nature. If he is overly dependent upon other people, that is no concern of mine. The minister is the person to whom we look to support legislation that he brings forward, and I suggest this is not the proper method to use. Why did the minister not bring this forward in April or at some earlier date? Why was it postponed to the end of June?

Mr. Pickersgill: Why not debate it now that it is before the house?

Mr. Churchill: The Minister of Citizenship and Immigration is interrupting again. I suggest to my hon. friend that he might very well pay attention to his own department and, if he has anything to contribute in this instance, he might perhaps rise at this stage and enter into debate rather than make his interjections. I am encouraged by the remarks of the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. I shall pursue my point that this is not the way in which to bring before this house legislation of this nature, trying to get us to pass it quickly, for some reason that the minister has in mind. I suppose that when we get to the committee stage later on today the minister will want us to hurry on to third reading so that that will be got rid of, and then, of course, the bill will be passed and sent over to the other