

politician that ordinary people do in fact have a remarkable grasp of the significance of their own situation and a remarkable capacity for making proposals for improving that situation based on common sense and a lot of economic sense in a general way.

● (1620)

I would like now to report on our trip to three communities in British Columbia, to report to the House the thoughts and feelings of the ordinary people of B.C. on the question of unemployment, and report to the House some of their suggestions about what could be done and what should be done in their communities to deal with this national and regional problem. First, we spent last Saturday in the very attractive seaport town of Nanaimo and we heard a dozen or so briefs on Saturday afternoon in that community which has an unemployment rate of about 14 per cent at present.

I will just give the House illustrations from some of those briefs which document the experience and contain some suggestions for improvement. First, I will refer to the briefs submitted by Chief Modeste of the Cowichan Band Council. I would like the Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. Cullen), as well as the minister responsible for our native people, to read that brief because in it they will find a very moving description of the extent of unemployment on this reserve and its impact on the lives of the Indian people in that reserve, on their families, what it does to motivation and what it does in terms of expectations for their life in this land of ours.

It is not a charming piece of material to read. It would not move one to great feelings of optimism and high expectations about the future of Canada as seen from the perspective of a member of the Cowichan band in that part of our land. It is, indeed, a sad document, and I remind you, Mr. Speaker, that what is true in that band holds true universally for our native people in Canada, almost all of whom are excluded, I might add, from the official unemployment figures that come out month after month. At the conclusion of this very moving brief the last sentence reads:

An old Indian teaching is that no man can suppress another for very long for he will pay for his action in the end.

That was not said in a polemical or threatening way; it was said seriously and movingly by a man who was acting as the spokesman for his people. A brief was presented by the Alberni District Labour Council. It describes, again in plain language and therefore movingly, the particular situation of our young people and how unemployment begins to destroy their incentive, begins to sap their energy and take away their commitment to this country. I quote from it as a recommendation to the government of the day. At one point it reads:

Along with the right of education, health and housing, there has to be a right to a work place.

My party accepts that. It accepts the view that what we should have on the law books of Canada is a full employment act which says that in principle every Canadian from St. John's in the east to Victoria in the west has the right to a job. It is not utopian that a government of the day would be

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expected to lay down a four or five year program to achieve over that period full employment and then make annual reports to the House about its target and its success or failure in achieving that target. But we have no such legislation, no such commitment to full employment from this Liberal government, nor have we had it from any of its predecessors.

**Mr. Stevens:** How about a right to work law?

**Mr. Broadbent:** It depends entirely on what you mean by that concept. If you mean that Canadians should have the right to a job instead of welfare, you have the 100 per cent support of my party.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Broadbent:** The third brief to which I should like to refer came from the Gabriola Island fishermen. Again, it was one that contained not only a moving description of the circumstances in which fishermen on the west coast find themselves but had some pertinent recommendations to make. It was concerned about the revival of the salmon fishery in that part of British Columbia. They objected to a proposed change in the division of our coastal waters in B.C. which would be harmful for small boats and trawl fishermen. I will not go into details at this time. Their point was that they did not want the announced change that had been outlined to them to take place because it would be harmful for the fishermen there. But what did they call for? They called for an independent commission whose purpose it would be to recommend practical means of reviving the salmon fishery in their area so that, as they put it, "fishermen can make their own living independent of subsidies, welfare or unemployment insurance". What they wanted was not some form of hand out, some form of charity; they wanted a sensible fishery policy which would enable them to live with dignity doing some work.

**Mr. Friesen:** What did Barrett do?

**Mr. Broadbent:** Let me tell the Tory backbencher that since the Tory-Liberal-Socred alliance has come in in British Columbia, unemployment has gone up and inflation has gone up, not down. The fourth brief we heard in Nanaimo—

**Mr. Wenman:** Tell us about the high income tax in Manitoba.

**Mr. Broadbent:** It is obvious the Tories have had nothing constructive to say the whole time Canadians have suffered such a high rate of unemployment, and now they are sensitive about the issue. The fourth brief to which I should like to refer is the one which was submitted by the Nanaimo Association for Intervention and Development. They provided a very disturbing set of statistics.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier):** Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon gentleman, but I must inform the hon. member for York-Simcoe (Mr. Stevens), that we must respect the decorum of the House and refrain from wearing a hat on this day.