

Obviously, the government has not found a solution, but it is equally obvious that the opposition parties that criticize the government have not come up with any miracle remedy. In view of all that and of the concern we must have for society, I believe it is advisable and urgent to agree on common objectives, not for the sake of the government but for the sake of the people of Canada.

I do not necessarily want to criticize or blame the government because I think that too many members have done that in this House. I would like to remind the government that from time to time we have asked for measures to solve unemployment. At present, there is legislation designed to support employment in Canada. I feel that this legislation which provides \$80 million, is exclusively designed to support employment in this country and may not therefore fight unemployment.

I am of the opinion that this measure forces us to stand on the defensive. As I say, economic problems are the same all over the world. I suggest that we have a negative attitude in this respect.

It might have been wise, about a year ago, to consider repealing the 11 per cent sales tax on building materials in view of its effects on the construction industry. It certainly would have been interesting, considering the present unemployment.

Time and time again there has been talk of doing away with the federal sales tax of 12 per cent. In the light of the present situation, has any serious thought been given to setting retirement age at 60, which move would give the younger generation some 300,000 to 400,000 jobs? Then, of course, higher old age pensions would have to be provided for people aged 60 or more. As for those who might be tempted to ask where the money would come from, I think I can answer them: Unemployment is costing us enough. Some thought might also be given to a transfer of funds to give holidays, I say it again, to those who deserve them, and jobs to a generation which is eagerly waiting for them.

Has serious consideration been given to setting retirement at age 60? I would like the government representatives to explain why this is not done faster.

Has consideration been given also to projects which would take into account public services and which would benefit society? In any case, have we thought of carrying out certain projects, both at the federal and provincial levels, which would put materials to greater use and which would stimulate industry.

Of course, consideration will have to be given to the possibility of extending new lines of credit at more decent interest rates than those we have. It is our duty to think seriously about establishing a policy, taking into account the interest of society and the welfare we have the responsibility of giving to the Canadian people.

I say this because for a specific reason I want to make the government aware of its responsibilities. As many others, I could content myself with accusing the government of having failed, but then to be honest I would have to accuse also the governments of all the other countries

#### *Employment Support Bill*

which are faced with the same difficulties. This would be a very negative attitude.

To get a better idea of those measures, I think we should without fear rely once again on experts. The government must be honest with the people, get them acquainted with present difficulties and admit that it does not have the ultimate solution. There is no fault or crime in this. People expect honesty and they have known for a long time that the government has not found the solution that is needed.

As I said before, the proposals that came from opposition parties were not any better and we did not prove we had the miracle solution.

We should seriously consider calling the summit conference I mentioned earlier, a meeting of a great many Canadians interested in serving their country by giving wise advice to those responsible for the present situation.

I hope that outside Parliament, considering the experience of industrialists, businessmen, economists, employers, workers, union members, they should be able to meet with the ministers concerned and work together to find a solution.

The government should not hesitate to recognize its inability to deal with the economic circumstances in which we find ourselves. That would be very flattering I think for the Canadian people and would enable them to understand problems which are not easy to solve.

We should not delude ourselves. I do not think we should content ourselves with criticizing the government and I do not believe, considering present circumstances, we could even think that we ought to try to hurt the government, in a word lead it to defeat when we know quite well that all Canadians would bear the costs.

All hon. members are aware of the difficulties that we are experiencing; they are aware also of the costs that could have to be borne by the Canadian people. They wish to provide better living for all Canadians.

Through these few words, I only wish to make all hon. members conscious of those difficulties and invite the government to make unparalleled efforts to make people conscious of them also. There should be no hesitation in bringing home to them that the government itself is experiencing difficulties before such problems. There should be no hesitation in assembling around the government all available experts and all those men and women who can, through some advice, help it find a solution. Then we can say that Parliament has truly tried to solve a problem affecting the whole Canadian people. Being better informed and having the proof that the government and the parliamentarians have been truly objective and fair, Canadians will therefore be able to undertake joint action and take a potentially difficult decision.

I am aware that we should try to avoid tariff wars between countries. This is probably desirable.

Under the present situation the Canadian government will clearly have to take major decisions. As members of Parliament we need public support. It is not by politicking, by systematically criticizing the government and above all by rejoicing in the difficulties which the gov-