

*Business of Supply*

statements and those of his parliamentary secretary as far as their stand and the statistics given are concerned.

However, I should like to refer to one of the arguments put forward and which in my opinion, is completely ludicrous. It reflects indeed the confusion that prevails not only within the Department of Manpower and Immigration, but also within the Liberal party, since the parliamentary secretary is, I think, empowered by the minister to speak on behalf of his department.

He told us, among other things, that the department and the minister were fully aware of every thing with regard to student manpower in Canada.

Then, if this is true, I wonder why the minister could not answer my question this afternoon, when I inquired about the number of students seeking employment next summer.

The minister made it quite clear that he did know and that he did not have the information at hand, which proves therefore that there is some conflict with regard to the information given and a certain lack of communication between the minister and his parliamentary secretary.

After having found fault with the opposition for not making any suggestions, the hon. member continued his speech and a few minutes later, he said that the suggestions of the opposition would prove costly for the government. And so, he blames the opposition for suggesting concrete solutions to do away with unemployment, but later he praises the minister for having increased from \$80 million to \$197 million the money earmarked for adult technical training. This proves once again that there is flagrant contradiction since, on the one hand, he blames the opposition for wanting to suggest solutions that will cost the government a lot of money while, on the other hand, lauding the minister later for having increased by \$100 million the amounts earmarked for technical training.

• (9:40 p.m.)

So. I am trying to understand that jumble of contradictions—

**Mr. Gérard Loiselle (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** Order. The parliamentary secretary to the Minister

of Manpower and Immigration on a point of order.

**Mr. Loiselle:** If I understand correctly, the member for Sainte-Marie blames me for asking the minister to spend a \$100 million. I am afraid the hon. member did not understand me correctly. What I said a while ago was this: this year, the Department of Manpower will spend \$197 million on vocational training and \$100 million on the construction of technical schools.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** Order. The hon. member for Sainte-Marie.

**Mr. Valade:** I am sorry the member for Saint-Henri still does not understand. I shall explain later.

Mr. Speaker, I do not feel that I should dwell on the matter of student employment, of which my colleagues have spoken at length during this debate. Still, I shall touch upon the substance of the amendment which really deals with unemployment in a very general sense.

I am sorry to note, Mr. Speaker, that unemployment has now reached an extremely dangerous point for the Canadian economy, and especially that of the province of Quebec.

The government has not shown that it intends to do anything at all to alleviate this plague which affects the province of Quebec more particularly. According to today's newspapers, the port of Montreal may be forced to suspend its operations during this current season; this would surely mean that thousands of dock workers, labourers and other employees would be unemployed.

For the past few weeks, here in this house, we have repeatedly asked the Minister of Transport (Mr. Hellyer) to tell us what steps he intended to take in order to avoid this economic disaster threatening the Canadian metropolis.

Considering the unemployment prevailing now in the province of Quebec, I dare say that their responsible statements made by some ministers are of bad omen for the economy of the province of Quebec.

I would now like to refer to the most irresponsible and harmful statement made by the Minister of Labour (Mr. Mackasey) I saw him a moment ago in the house and he was probably making apologies while trying to clear the Minister of Manpower and Immigration and the government of their failure to take action about unemployment in Canada and to put