

The result is greater dependence from one year to the next on the state, and finally, the government must spend more and more for its administration, since the social security programs have reached the point where they cost a fortune. Why? Because the administration of such programs, the salaries of bureaucrats cost more and more and absorb the majority of the funds voted by Parliament for such programs.

As I said, we must make a choice, namely keep on supporting socializing measures that limit individual initiative or measures which not only would not discourage the individual, but would help him to help himself.

Mr. Speaker, what are the governments waiting for, what do they want? To make Canadians more and more dependent or to enable each citizen to live his own destiny, in freedom and security?

Mr. Speaker, some very funny government members will perhaps tell me that Social Credit is utopia. I will tell them that their system has reached such a point that our citizens are being turned into slaves.

Industries are closing down. They have developed, Mr. Speaker—and that underlines the ridiculous aspect of the system—a craze for creating jobs. They grant millions of dollars to industries. This is a form of social welfare. Why? To create jobs. However, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) says: Production is too high, we must control it.

On one hand, jobs are created to increase production and, on the other, Canadians are being told: Tighten your belts because production is too high. And all the time, while poverty is rampant in western Canada because of too much wheat, while poverty is rampant in Quebec and the Maritimes because there is too much of everything, three Canadian families out of five live in poverty, according to the Special Senate Committee on Poverty.

Mr. Speaker, in order to allow each Canadian to have his share of the wealth of this country, we must support with all our energy any policy devised to encourage the initiative of the individual and to make him independent from governments for his living, devised to encourage the initiative of the citizen who is anxious to get out of it by himself.

And with this I bring my remarks to a close, Mr. Speaker. I am convinced that if governments gave Canadians a chance to build their country instead of discouraging them, they would build their country.

[*English*]

Hon. Martin P. O'Connell (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I have listened to the comments of hon. gentlemen opposite and I wish to thank them for some of the suggestions which have been made. The mover of the motion spoke a good deal about the quality of life and its relationship to public services, and suggested that the momentum of the government with regard to creating a just society has been subsiding. I wish to assure him that the only thing that has been subsiding is the currency of the phrase and not the thrust of the government's dedication to that concept.

There is no question that injustices remain in Canada. In fact, their very existence is what caused the Prime

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Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and this government to launch a determined attack on injustices wherever they exist. There is no question that one of the greatest of those is unemployment. I should like to make a few comments on that matter and to areas where we on this side, and I am sure hon. members opposite, recognize that progress is being made. The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. Perrault) will speak more specifically on some of the points raised with respect to unemployment insurance.

• (1610)

I begin, Mr. Speaker, by simply saying that we see unemployment, not in terms of the statistics which are so often passed back and forth across this House but in terms of its social and human dimensions, which is the only true way to see it. While there are now some encouraging statistics emerging, I would like to draw attention to the larger framework in which policies are being developed, some quite innovative policies, because if we see some of that larger problem we can appreciate the magnitude of the problem in Canada which we are resolving.

First let us consider the Economic Council of Canada's fourth annual report. We were told there, on the basis of the data that I think is uncontroversial, that in the 15-year period beginning in 1965 and ending in 1980—we all recognize that we are over one-third of the way into that period—the Canadian labour force, the people who want to work, who consider themselves employable, will grow by 50 per cent. This is a growth rate that is entirely unique in the western world. I do not say this in seeking any kind of excuse but only to lay in front of all of us the challenge and opportunity which we have. How can this be compared with the problems of many other western countries? The United States labour force is to grow by 30 per cent, against our 50 per cent. What is the rate in the United Kingdom? It is 4½ per cent in the same 15 years. What is it in Sweden? It is a zero growth rate. What is it in France? There it is 13½ per cent. Mr. Speaker, I am quoting these figures from memory but I think they are accurate.

In Germany the predicted growth rate of the labour force in this period is 5½ per cent. In Italy the predicted rate is 2½ per cent. In Canada, I repeat, it is 50 per cent. This is an historic, non-recurring opportunity and challenge for us because if we can get an economy that will put those people to work—and they are mostly young people, relatively well educated—we will have in this country an economic base for a more just society and those greater opportunities that we all want in areas other than the economic area.

What is this rate in real terms? In real terms the challenge is quite staggering. We will be adding three million people to the labour force in that 15-year period. In the first five-year period one million new jobs were created in Canada. We appear to be on track but not quite. The three million people who will come into the Canadian labour force will equal the absolute additions of people to the labour forces of Great Britain, West Germany and Italy combined, in that period. On our population base of 20 million people we have to find as many new jobs as those three countries combined. That is a very significant challenge. When we talk about unemployment figures in