

Unemployment Measures Lacking

It is a pity, Mr. Speaker. It is about time that we should stop and think about progress. When I read unemployment statistics, it is not so much the figures which frighten me but the implications of these figures, because the number of the unemployed in the province must be multiplied five or six times if we really want to know how many people live in the most dreadful circumstances.

I think that here, this year, we should face up to our responsibilities, all together without any partisanship, to try and solve the problem without one government wanting to take credit for it more than another. The facts are here, Mr. Speaker, then let us try and solve the problem all together, putting aside the fact that we belong to a party. We are here as the representatives of our constituents and we should be conscious of all the responsibilities which rest upon us.

The Social Credit party will not work wonders once in office but, precisely because respect for man is the basis of its philosophy, it will not consider only figures offered by statistics but will try to give one and all good living conditions, security and freedom.

Today, there is much talk about freedom and democracy. When I see so many unemployed, so many men who would like to work, who do not even think of going to some industry to offer their services. Where is freedom, Mr. Speaker, when a man is not able to work?

I maintain that one of man's first natural rights is the right to earn a living to support his family.

Moreover, to promote our economy also I think that the present problem will again be submitted to the house in January—I hope that taxes will be reviewed in order to find out means to give a new impetus, a new development to Canada, even if this would get our country in debt for the next ten years.

Let us think of the future. Under the present set-up, you just have to run into debt. Then, instead of attempting to get in debt little by little, by keeping people in extreme poverty, put the tiller hard over once and for all, and come January, present us with altogether new legislation. Our farmers, our labourers must find employment in order to earn their livelihood. I am ready to vote for that; I will be backing you.

Under the present set-up, endeavours have been made to take back control of the economy. But you know that the crucial problem is the financial one. The evil should be fought where it is.

First let us admit the complication of the unemployment problem. That is precisely why it is recommended to the members of this house not to try and blame somebody, but rather to suggest solutions.

[Mr. Plourde.]

We, in this corner of the house, are going to put forward solutions for the unemployment problem; we are going to tell you how to act to stem unemployment. You members of the other parties should do the same. You should suggest solutions to the government; then it will be able to develop a program and take a step in the right direction.

Before I conclude, Mr. Speaker, I wish to mention again to the hon. members that they committed themselves, during the election campaign of last May, to stop unemployment once in power, and in my opinion, it is about time that they seriously think that over and introduce an adequate legislation in that connection.

I noticed that the Prime Minister did not talk today about the problem of unemployment. There are still two or three problems which remain to be studied in this house, and the problem of unemployment has not yet been mentioned. We, in this part of the house, expressly make it a point that steps to relieve unemployment should be taken as soon as possible.

There is another thing for which we care and which we would like to be settled as soon as possible: it is the family allowances. By granting the requested family allowances, we would alleviate hardship among the people. That is logical. Let us be generous then with respect to family allowances.

I have been associated with an orphanage which gets \$4 a day from the government for each orphan. The state pays \$6 per month to the mother of a family in such circumstances. What a difference. An orphanage gets \$4 a day to buy shoes, clothing, etc. for a child whereas a family gets \$6 monthly for the same purpose.

The family allowance program should be drastically overhauled. Allowances should be \$30 a month at least. Mr. Speaker, what is a dollar a day to develop the country and to encourage mothers to raise larger families? The day we have a large population, we will be able to speak of independence and to defend ourselves without relying on the United States as is the case at present.

Where does the strength of a country lie? In its faith in the future. We shall have faith in the future, Mr. Speaker, when the government will promote the welfare of the family which is the basic unit of society.

Mr. Speaker: I recognize the hon. member for Iles-de-la-Madeleine.

Mr. Maurice Sauve (Iles-de-la-Madeleine): Mr. Speaker, I believe that all members of the house in the next two days will turn their whole attention to the extremely serious unemployment problem.