

speech by one of the members opposite which I really appreciated. He was saying that a great railway was built to unite this country. Mr. Speaker, people used to work then. If we want to build this country, we must provide incentives to work. Canadians do not lack imagination.

As I was saying, \$1.3 billion is going to be spent in unemployment insurance benefits to unemployed workers who will do nothing for their country in return. I am not talking about attempts to find work, I am talking about work.

Every municipality in Quebec is stark indebted; they have no money to pay the workers needed to implement community or other particular projects, for instance developing a park, reforestation, developing the neighbourhood of a river, or cleaning the city. Canadians have plenty of imagination, especially young ones. Just read every proposal coming from our respective constituencies under a local initiative or opportunities for youth program. That means that young people want to create something in Canada, it means that money, not needs, is missing. Now \$1.3 billion are literally wasted out on unemployment, and produce nothing.

Mr. Speaker, I repeat this is not a proposal of the Social Credit Party of Canada. Neither is my proposal outside the realm of possibility, but I will certainly fight for quite a while to have it accepted. Let us go to our unemployed who are out of work not because they are sick, but because they cannot find any work or because they gave up their job voluntarily because of bad working conditions! Mr. Speaker, these people are not happy about the situation. They are ready to roll up their sleeves and work for the community. We should use some method to ask these unemployed to report either to the municipal manager or another organization, and in return for 10, 15 or 20 hours of work a week, these once more proud people will have the feeling that they have earned their benefits, that they have contributed to improve the community through work where they can use their minds. In return, Mr. Speaker, our society, starting with me, will be happy to give them their benefits because they will have earned them.

Mr. Speaker, this is the spirit in which we should work in this House, a positive spirit. And if we want our Canadian workers and unemployed to have a positive spirit, we must have the courage to get up in this House and to let this spirit show; there should be an overflow of positive spirit.

In Lotbinière, I had on my desk local initiative projects for more than \$2 million last season. We received \$288,000. Therefore, we accepted only a few projects, which were very good since we used the consultation system, but there were few of them. Why? Because we did not have enough money. At the same time, hundreds of thousands of dollars were paid out in my constituency for unemployment insurance benefits.

Mr. Speaker, the unemployed want to work. It is up to the government, it is up to the opposition, it is up to all of us to get together and develop a mechanism to put to good use our workers, and I do not say our unemployed but our workers because these are people who want to work; only a very small minority benefits from the system, Mr. Speaker, because the workers need to work in view of the increase in the cost of living.

Income Tax

Even though the Unemployment Insurance Commission would come and tell me that there is a lot of cheating, Mr. Speaker, I would say they have lied in a royal way, if I may use a word of which the right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker) is fond. Only a minority, a very small minority, cheats the Unemployment Insurance Act, the others want to work, they find it very hard to draw benefits and are in a hurry to go back to the labour market. At the same time, there is not enough money in our cities and our municipalities to build up and realize projects.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I say that taxpayers' revenues would find their full use in those projects. It is all very well to tax people through Bill C-49, as they want to do, but what are we going to do with all that money? Is it going to help us build our country or resettle some or hundreds of thousands of our fellow citizens?

Such are, Mr. Speaker, the questions I wanted to put in this debate. I hope that they will not fall into deaf ears, but on good ground so that they may bear fruit.

I know that I am the real spokesman for my fellow citizens, when I speak of this. I repeated it at five various places in my constituency, at social clubs, to workers and unemployed people, during the Christmas recess. I spoke to them about it and, Mr. Speaker, they were unanimous in finding the idea terrific. The people from my area are prepared to come forward, to work for their community, to imagine projects, because we have our needs, in our area as everywhere else. They are prepared to roll up their sleeves and to work, to make efforts for their community. However, they want to be respected by the system.

They want respect from governments, from departments and, above all, from officials. They do not want officials to welcome them like a bull in a China shop. They want to be respected, and I think that they are right when they want to be respected by officials, because, after all, these are only employees who are there to serve and enforce the law.

Mr. Speaker, I suggest the Minister of Finance has a highly prominent part to take in that matter. We are living in an inflationary situation where prices are out of control. We are living in an economic situation full of uncertainties, where labour is generally upset and where some people take advantage of it. We are living in an economic system where we are overburdened with imports.

Mr. Speaker, let us set our economy in order, let us give priority to Canadians, let us first foster Canadian industry before fostering others', and let us encourage our Canadian labour to get to work. Then, Mr. Speaker, Canadians will not feel reluctant to pay income tax, for they will know that we will get results in return. Right now, a Canadian who pays income tax to the government has the deep feeling of giving it away and never getting anything in return.

[*English*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Penner): Order, please. The Chair has given consideration to the subamendment moved in the name of the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby (Mr. Broadbent). As I indicated earlier to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) and other hon. members there was a difficulty which the Chair thought could be in the