

month by June 1983. The same statistics also indicate that there are 15,000 people living on savings; 20,000 people living on the earnings of another family; 5,000 people living on loans; 5,000 people living on pensions; and another 10,000 people presumably living on their wits because they have run out of entitlements.

With these figures in mind, I would ask the Minister of State for Social Development to ask his colleague on the Social Welfare Development Committee to call a meeting of welfare ministers. The expectation is that another 7,000 to 9,000 people in Canada per month will be going on welfare during the coming year.

Some Hon. Senators: Shame!

Senator Doody: The minister says that there will be no problem, and they will be caught up in the—excuse the expression—“welfare net.”

I would remind the honourable senator and his colleagues that there is not enough welfare funding available in some of the provinces to support that kind of system during this coming winter. I plead with him to convince his colleague to call a meeting of the ministers so that they can explain the situation as it now exists in some of the poorer provinces and try to alleviate the suffering many Canadians are going to have to endure.

Senator Austin: I would begin by apologizing to Senator Doody for calling him “Senator Donahoe.”

Senator Doody: I am honoured; Senator Donahoe is the one with the problem.

Senator Austin: I apologize to Senator Donahoe as well if that is the case.

I would acknowledge that the problem of unemployment is a serious and major one in Canada. It is one to which the government has given every ounce and fibre of its attention. The minister responsible for the Unemployment Insurance Commission, the Honourable Lloyd Axworthy, has spoken on a personal-visit basis with virtually every provincial minister with respect to joint federal and provincial efforts to deal with the question of the expiration of certain benefits under the unemployment insurance program. Indeed, the government announced a program by which it would place \$500 million directly into employment stimulation at the level of municipalities and within the private sector. That announcement was made in October.

● (1425)

Since that time, various provincial governments have announced that they are prepared to participate in that same program. For example, the Province of Ontario has announced that it would put in \$100 million. The provincial minister, Mr. Miller, has indicated his strong support in this regard.

Honourable senators, there is no question but that Senator Doody is correct. The government's attention must continue to be focused on the subject of unemployment and on that of maintaining the social security safety net which has been put in place over the last 30 to 40 years in this country. That

[Senator Doody.]

safety net is now a major factor in stabilizing communities and in ensuring that a sense of optimism and a sense of renewed economic growth remains in our country.

Senator Doody: Honourable senators, I thank the minister for his answer. Would he not, then, think it appropriate to call together the ministers of welfare of the various provinces in order to study in detail the sort of plans, schemes and efforts that the honourable minister has just explained to his colleagues here?

Senator Austin: Honourable senators, perhaps I could add to my answer that I believe that the Minister of Finance, the Honourable Marc Lalonde, will be meeting during the month of December with the provincial ministers of finance. Unemployment will certainly be one of the issues that they will be discussing.

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

LAW ENFORCEMENT GUIDELINES

Hon. Nathan Nurgitz: Honourable senators, my apologies for rising a little belatedly on this point. The Leader of the Government undertook to find answers to certain questions with respect to the recently announced intention of the government not to proceed with prosecutions of members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police who have broken the law. While he is seeking those answers, could he also undertake to find out for us the current guidelines for the enforcement of our laws by the national police force?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, that question will be included in the reference made to the Department of Justice and the Department of the Solicitor General.

CANADA DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT CORPORATION

TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT OF PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Hon. Orville H. Phillips: Honourable senators, I have a question for the minister of state responsible for the CDIC. Last week it was announced that Mr. Joel Bell, formerly of the PMO and Petro-Canada, has been appointed president and chief executive officer of the corporation. It has been reported that Mr. Bell was engaged by means of a contract—a rather unusual procedure.

Could the minister inform us of the length of the contract and explain why there was a no-cut clause in the contract?

Hon. Jack Austin (Minister of State for Social Development): Honourable senators, I appreciate the question from Senator Phillips respecting the Canada Development Investment Corporation. I will say that Mr. Bell is one of the outstanding business executives in Canada. His role in the development of Petro-Canada has been an exemplary one. He proved to be one of those who led its corporate growth.