

*Report on Municipal Labour Program*

I mention this, Mr. Speaker, in order to indicate for the benefit of hon. members the extent to which the provinces and the municipalities have co-operated in taking advantage of this program and in making possible works of the magnitude mentioned and, of course, in providing jobs both directly and indirectly to a great many Canadians.

As the house is aware, the success of the program to date has resulted in numerous requests that the period of time be extended. I should add that a number of such requests have come from provinces some of which are contributing to payroll costs in the amount of 25 per cent and 30 per cent, adding a further incentive to the municipalities.

The house will recall that a supplementary estimate was recently approved granting funds in the amount of \$15 million for this program. In order that those municipalities which have taken advantage of this program to undertake during the winter months works and projects which they would not have otherwise undertaken, may be enabled to continue to receive this assistance for another full month, I am happy to announce that it is the intention of the government to grant an extension of this program until May 31.

**Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East):** Mr. Speaker, I am sure the house will welcome even this information which has been given so generously by the Minister of Labour today. He mentioned that the winter work program has resulted in the placement of some 32,000 people. I regret to inform him that I made a mistake last night when speaking outside of this house. I said that the winter work program had put some 33,000 to work. I erred by a thousand in my tribute to the minister.

**An hon. Member:** Wrong again.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** Someone says "wrong again"; but listen to those figures and see whether I am very wrong. The fact that the government has decided to extend this program to May 31 is an indication—

**Mr. Monteith (Perth):** May 31.

**Some hon. Members:** Wrong again.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):**—that the government regards this as a very serious matter. Indeed, it is so serious, as was pointed out yesterday by the minister when reporting on the latest figures on unemployment, that the unemployed of Canada represent 8.8 per cent of the working force. I am sure, however, he will not deny that in the maritime provinces the unemployed represent 12 per cent of the working force; in Newfoundland the unemployed represent 30 per cent of the working force; in Ontario the unemployed represent 6 per cent of the working force; in Quebec the

[Mr. Starr.]

unemployed represent 12 per cent of the working force; on the prairies, 5 per cent, and in British Columbia 8.7 per cent. Let us compare this situation with the situation in Denmark, Belgium, the United States, Western Germany, Sweden, Norway, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, which will indicate that the announcement today by the minister is not really going to correct our situation.

**An hon. Member:** What about Windsor?

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** It is very bad in Windsor, I regret to say. We in Canada have a higher level of unemployment than any of the countries of the western world that I have mentioned. In Canada 8.8 per cent of the working force is unemployed. In Denmark it is 8.3 per cent; in Belgium, it is 7.2 per cent; in the United States it is 6.1 per cent.

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** In Western Germany it is 5.6 per cent; in Sweden it is 4.3 per cent; in Norway it is 4 per cent. In the Netherlands it is 3.2 per cent; and in the United Kingdom, 2.5 per cent.

**Mr. Fulton:** On a point of order—

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):**—so that this government cannot take—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Justice):** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, it is my recollection and understanding that when ministers make statements it has been the practice of the house, although it is not provided for under the rules, to permit short comments on the statements in reply. Those comments are, by the practice, to be strictly relevant to the statement itself. What the hon. member is doing is taking us on a sort of world tour, which seems to be hardly relevant to the statement made by the Minister of Labour.

I suggest to you, sir, that the hon. gentleman should abide by the practice of the house. I well remember that when we were sitting over there we kept our comments short—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Fulton:**—and if at any time we tended to stray from short comment we were reminded by my hon. friends who were sitting here at that time what the rule was. I do suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the rules of the house, which my hon. friends were so anxious to see obeyed when they were over here, should govern them in their conduct when they are over there.