

One of the so-called progressive ideas offered in this bill is work-sharing. That was very prevalent in the days of the depression. It is not a creative approach to employment, and the government knows it. Then they said if a worker wanted to work on a community project, he would be paid unemployment insurance. No one could call the C.D. Howe Institute a left-wing organization, but it has commented that the only benefit from a training program comes if there is a job at the end. Unfortunately, the training programs available through Manpower produce hairdressers and stationary engineers. It seems to be just an attempt to take people off the unemployment rolls because if they are on a training program they are not counted in the unemployment statistics. Their chance of a job at the end of the course depends on the economic conditions which prevail at the time.

We have consistently pointed out that this is stupid and inhuman. It certainly is not correct to tamper with unemployment insurance through the adjustment of the extended benefit period, to conform to this new approach of regional unemployment across the country. We pointed out, as well, that it is silly to tamper with the minor attachment period because this is a time of very serious unemployment. How cutting people off unemployment insurance is going to help them find a job is beyond me. We know, for example, that there are about 58,000 jobs available at any given time. I think the latest figures show some 58,000 vacancies, but there are one million unemployed. It is fairly obvious that when you start tightening up this law, those people will spill over into community welfare programs. There are communities which can ill-afford to expand their welfare budgets so these people will end up costing the taxpayer a great deal of money.

There is the spectre of young people coming off the work force, and those who depend on working for the summer, not being able to return to school in the fall. These young people will find it difficult to get eight weeks of work, and if they live in a high unemployment area it will be difficult for them to get 14 weeks' work in order to qualify for benefits. The minister and his colleagues, and even hon. members to my right, have said that this is the most generous unemployment insurance program in the world. When we met in committee, the Construction Association and the Canadian Manufacturers' Association appeared there complaining about disincentives.

An hon. Member: They were all Tories.

Mr. Rodriguez: They were palsy-walsy with the Conservatives. Anybody would be friendly with them if the money for their campaign came from those organizations.

Mr. Paproski: I am supported by the little fellow.

Mr. Rodriguez: They claim it is the most generous unemployment insurance scheme in the world. But when we ask for details of how it compares with others, we find they are lacking—

Mr. Hnatyshyn: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I know my hon. friend's remarks are important, but I think he inad-

vertently misled the House. As we all know, the hon. member for Edmonton Centre (Mr. Paproski) and myself are supported by the little person and not by the large, international trade unions.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Order, please. It being five o'clock p.m., the House will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's order paper, pursuant to order made Wednesday, June 22, 1977, namely, private bills, notices of motions (papers) and public bills.

PRIVATE BILLS

[*Translation*]

CONTINENTAL BANK OF CANADA

MEASURE TO CONVERT IAC INTO CHARTERED BANK

Mr. John M. Reid (Kenora-Rainy River) moved that Bill C-1001 to incorporate Continental Bank of Canada, as reported (with amendments) from the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs, be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

[*English*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): When shall the bill be read the third time?

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Now.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Reid moved that the bill be read the third time and do pass.

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, before this bill is read the third time, I should like to make a number of remarks to justify our position which has not changed concerning the powers granted chartered banks under federal legislation. But it would be useful, however, to consider for a while the history of chartered banks in Canada, in order to understand better the points which were made by the movers of this bill, by IAC Limited, which wants to become a chartered bank under the provisions of Bill C-1001.

● (1700)

Mr. Speaker, at the time Canada became a confederation of provinces in 1867—that's quite a few years before our time—the jurisdiction over banks became an area reserved to the federal government. A legislation authorized banks to carry out their operations in all parts of the Canadian territory, and a first permanent legislation governing banking activities was adopted in 1871. Following this, only the Parliament of Canada could authorize the creation of a bank under a special act in line with the new banking legislation.