

Supply—Labour

doing a much better job under the direction of the present minister than they have ever done before.

When I said that there were no suggestions from the opposition, I would like to qualify that to this extent. I believe the only suggestion I have heard of in the course of this debate, and it was not the present debate but some time ago, was from the hon. member for Kootenay West. He did bring forward a suggestion which I believe is worth looking into. I do not know how it could be worked out, but the hon. member for Kootenay West mentioned that to a large extent seasonal unemployment is the problem we are faced with, and I think that is indicated by the sharp rise we have in unemployment at this time of the year. It indicates that to a large extent it is caused by seasonal influence. The hon. member suggested that perhaps those firms which carried on their operations in the wintertime under adverse conditions in attempts to create employment should be given some consideration in the lessening of taxes, in the same way as mining corporations, and so on; concerns which are setting up a new business or industry which will be of help. I believe the government should perhaps take that into consideration.

In closing, I simply want to say, as I said at the beginning, that nobody wants to minimize this situation. I am sure all of us want to do what we can, but I strongly feel that what is needed now is not political debate, a lot of political nonsense, and a lot more committees. There have been lots of conferences. The minister called a national conference a little over a year ago when suggestions were put forward. What we need now are concrete suggestions which can be put to use at once. I appeal to every hon. member of this house, if he has a suggestion which will create some employment and it is within the power of the government, for heaven's sake to make it, and we will see if we can't get on with it.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Would the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. Browne (Vancouver-Kingsway): Certainly.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Does he think that the proposal made in 1955 by the present Secretary of State for External Affairs, then a member of parliament sitting in the opposition, that we should have a parliamentary committee to examine this whole problem is a valid suggestion or not?

Mr. Browne (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Chairman, as I said, there has been so much discussion on this problem that I strongly

feel that what we need is a concrete suggestion. We are in a committee now. If anyone has a suggestion they can make it to this committee; they certainly have the opportunity to make it, and I am sure the government would make use of it a lot quicker than if the suggestion were made in any other way.

Mr. Forgie: Mr. Chairman, my remarks this afternoon will be addressed to the winter works campaign, and they will be brief. As far as my riding of North Renfrew is concerned, the ground has pretty well been covered by the hon. members for Russell and Hull. Both conditions in the valley and these two constituencies, as far as this winter program is concerned, are very similar. The Minister of Labour, at page 904 of *Hansard* for February 9 last, had this to say:

At the outset I would say that last year's program has been widely accepted by the municipalities across Canada, so much so, that they have again asked us to institute this program for the winter of 1959-1960.

In his wildest flights of fancy, I am sure the minister must have been looking through rosy spectacles when he said that the winter campaign as promulgated this year could apply to the ridings throughout the Ottawa valley. The minister knows the weather conditions persisting in my section of the country and how utterly ridiculous it would be to suggest digging drains, building sewers, building roads, and such activities as that, with 110 inches of snow on the ground and about four feet of frost in the earth. I think as far as our section of the country is concerned, we can wipe out the winter campaign.

As a matter of fact, for the past two years representatives of the council of the town of Pembroke have journeyed to Toronto to see if something could be done to improve the situation as far as obtaining money to make certain developments during the winter months is concerned, and on each occasion they came back empty handed.

The mayor of Sherbrooke had some very pertinent remarks to make regarding this winter works campaign which I would like to mention. He made the statement to the effect that he would not apply for a grant on the winter works program because after calculation it was found that the program was entirely inadequate and did not solve the problems of unemployment in Sherbrooke.

That is exactly the situation in my riding. I think it may be fairly stated, as I said before, that the minister when he made his statement I have read about the campaign, as far as the Ottawa valley was concerned, was indeed looking through rosy spectacles. In