

Inquiries of the Ministry

unemployment insurance benefits and are not eligible for welfare assistance because they cannot establish domicile in any one place. The result is that many of them are being pushed from town to town and represent a very serious problem. I want to ask the Prime Minister whether the government is giving any thought to some effective measures for assisting these single unemployed transients?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): As I had occasion to tell the House at least twice last week, the government is hoping to help all sections of the population who are unemployed. I understand that it is not within the power of the government to correct the problem in the particular case to which the hon. member referred. I know of many instances where companies in many parts of Canada have complained that the transients themselves depart very soon after their arrival, not because their jobs have been withdrawn but because they themselves decide to move on.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): In view of the fact that many of them are young men who have not yet been able to establish themselves in the labour force, and in view of the fact that last summer the Secretary of State provided hostels for some of this group, is the government giving any consideration to establishing hostels where crash programs could be set up to help them upgrade their education or acquire some of the skills that are necessary to enable them to secure employment later?

Mr. Trudeau: It seems to me that the Minister of Manpower and Immigration dealt with this precise question last week, but let me repeat that I know of many cases where young, single transients do not wish to work very long in isolated communities and it is they who of their own free will give up the job when the company would very much welcome their continuance in employment.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Since many of the municipalities and provincial governments—not all but certainly some of them—have been refusing to grant welfare to these people and insist on them moving on after giving them one night's lodging and a meal ticket, would the federal government consult with the provincial governments and undertake that if these people are supplied with welfare the federal government will assume the entire cost for looking after single unemployed persons whose care cannot be charged to a particular municipality?

Mr. Trudeau: As the House knows, Mr. Speaker, the government shares in 50 per cent of these costs now. If the government were ever to contemplate paying the total cost, of course the whole problem of provincial jurisdiction over welfare cases would have to be examined and the jurisdiction possibly shifted. I know of no province that is prepared to suggest that kind of change in the constitution.

[Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands).]

NUMBER OF EMPLOYED AND UNEMPLOYED UNITED STATES DRAFT DODGERS AND DESERTERS IN CANADA

Mr. Jack McIntosh (Swift Current-Maple Creek): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Prime Minister. Has any study been made as to the number of draft dodgers and deserters from the American forces who are in Canada, how many are employed, and how many are unemployed at the present time?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I know of no such study, Mr. Speaker. I do not believe it is the policy of the government to keep track of people who enter this country legally and to see whether they are employed or otherwise.

Mr. McIntosh: Can the Prime Minister inform the House how many of these people are on welfare at the present time in Canada?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I suppose this information is available at the municipal or provincial level. As the hon. member knows, these welfare schemes are administered by the provinces. I am told it is possible that we might have some figures and if there are figures available I will ask the minister to report to the House.

INCREASED UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE—DISCUSSION WITH PROVINCES OF SHARING OF COST OF ASSISTANCE

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that reports in the last couple of weeks show that in every city in Canada the number of young people who cannot get jobs has risen to unprecedented heights, would the federal government discuss with the provinces the possibility, where these people do not qualify for assistance, of sharing the cost of assisting them so that they can be helped during the winter months?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I did not catch the thrust of the question. I believe it related to discussions with the provinces, but I did not quite seize the question.

Mr. Orlikow: Mr. Speaker, may I rephrase the question. In view of the fact that many young people do not qualify for assistance because they have not lived in a city or province for the required time, normally a year, would the federal government consider as an emergency measure discussing with the provinces the sharing of the cost of assistance for these young people during the winter months which will be extremely difficult for them?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I am informed that most provinces are in effect giving assistance to such people and that therefore this is the rule rather than the exception.