

Economic Conditions in Rural Communities

co-operation from all members of the House to implement the programs that are before this Parliament. The greatest service we can do the farming community of this country is to implement the government's programs. After experience thus gained, we will be able to make further amendments to them if this is found necessary.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Richard): It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Athabasca (Mr. Yewchuck)—Canadian Broadcasting Corporation—Program "Sesame Street"—Classification of content—Educational value; the hon. member for Battle River (Mr. Downey)—Grain—Lift program—Extension of deadline date for payments for hail damage; the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles)—Pensions—Old age security—Acknowledgement of return of basic increase by certain pensioners—Use made of money.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS**BUSINESS OF SUPPLY**

ALLOTTED DAY S.O. 58—ALLEGED LACK OF GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP RESULTING IN DAMAGE TO COMMUNITIES AND PEOPLE

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Baldwin:

That this House condemns the government's lack of leadership which has humiliated the disadvantaged, dislocated the finances of provinces and municipalities, and caused injury and decline to our rural communities which are already seriously damaged by the government's failure to provide adequate agricultural policies.

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, having heard the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson) telling the House that his country has never seen so much leadership from him and his government, I am wondering why this "travelling circus" has just returned from the western provinces. I think they went out there to give support to the minister in charge of the Wheat Board as well as to the Minister of Agriculture. Indeed, there is no doubt about that. As I understand it, the minister's trip was not too successful.

Mr. Olson: We had wonderful success.

Mr. Alexander: In any event, it appears to me to have been an exercise in futility, and I think this will be borne out later by the remarks of those more expert than I in matters of agriculture.

The minister alleged that the hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Thompson) had not spoken to the motion. This motion is so framed that no matter what you say about

[Mr. Olson.]

the government's fiscal and monetary policies you are still within the ambit of the motion.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Alexander: Let not hon. members opposite refer to the pork barrel reorganization bill, which is another devious ploy on the part of the government. The Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) has said: "It does not matter how many camels I ride, if unemployment increases we won't be in government". That may be a little out of context, but the gist of his remarks is there. There is a feeling of pessimism and despair running through this country at the present time purely as a result of the fiscal and monetary policies of the government which have created unemployment. The government has created an horrendous situation, one that we cannot tolerate. We cannot tolerate it because it affects our prime resource, human beings who want to stay in the labour force or who want to get into the labour force. It is all very well for the government to announce that the seasonally adjusted rate has dropped, but this is cold comfort both for the 668,000 individuals who are unemployed and for the municipalities whose welfare facilities are already strained to the limit.

● (5:00 p.m.)

When I go back to the city of Hamilton and find the unemployed lining up for welfare at the rate of 60 a day because they cannot get unemployment insurance, I question whether the government is at all sincere. As I understand it, the unemployment insurance fund has increased from \$450 million to almost \$500 million. Yet it seems to me the government is more concerned about its anti-inflationary fiscal and monetary policies than with the hardships suffered by hundreds of thousands of people who are unemployed. This is obvious to anyone who is interested, because we are not interested in statistics, seasonally adjusted, unadjusted or any kind of adjusted. The actual figures indicate that the unemployment rate is 8 per cent which is 668,000 people. What is disturbing is that when we extend this figure to include the families, we find a large number of families are involved, businesses affected and so on all down the line. The Lord knows how many people are affected by the policies this government seems to accept and force on the people in this country.

Mr. Baldwin: There are only nine Liberals in the House and they will be unemployed pretty soon.

Mr. Alexander: The unfortunate thing is that the government continually boasts about the success of its schemes. I would like to remind the government that unemployment was the creation of the Liberal government because of its obsession with inflation. It was the government's insistence on coping with inflation which brought public opinion so heavily to bear on unemployment that the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson) was forced to make an enormous infusion of money into the Canadian economy. Unemployment is not licked so long as there are over 600,000 people in the labour force who are unsuccessful in finding jobs.