

than the people of the United States, but the people of the Atlantic provinces earn 40 per cent less than the average wage earner across Canada. Do you realize what position that puts us in? None the less our people are expected to find \$4,000 to put down on a new house. We just cannot afford it. We cannot get it, we cannot borrow it and we cannot do anything about it.

I say, Mr. Chairman, that if we would adopt the housing system of the United States, where a down payment of only \$400 is required for the purchase of a \$12,000 house which comes equipped with built-in kitchen furniture and so on worth \$2,000, we would not have the unemployment problem that exists in my riding today, especially if we could have such a program timed so as to provide winter employment. That is not an impossibility; that is a practical solution.

When my people in Madawaska county look across the Saint John river, which stretches for 200 miles along the boundary of the province and in some places is only 200 feet wide, they see their friends across the way buying things at half the price they pay. Cigarettes cost half as much, as do refrigerators and other household appliances, sometimes even less. A package of cigarettes costs 25 cents. A refrigerator that sells for \$500 in Canada costs \$269 across the line. I had a Sears-Roebuck catalogue the other day and also a Simpson-Sears catalogue. I found, for instance, that a household clock costing \$29 at Simpson's store in Montreal costs only \$11.95 in Sears-Roebuck stores in the United States.

I am not mentioning these things to cause anyone any embarrassment. I am mentioning them because I feel it is my job as the representative of the people of my constituency, and because I realize the position they are in. They have to pay twice as much for everything. They cannot get a house if they want one. Now they are out of work and cannot make a living. I went into a store in St. Andre the other day. The lady keeping store said, "We don't know what to believe any more. You fellows came along and promised us a lot of things but we never heard tell of them after the election. The Liberals come along and promise us something else and we never hear tell of it again. We are so discouraged that I don't know what to do. My husband cannot find work. People cannot pay their grocery bills. We are going broke."

More people have gone out of business in my riding in the past six months than in any one year since the depression. It is unfortunate that I have to mention these things, but they all come back to one thing; unemployment. Our people cannot get work, and

many of those out of work cannot get benefits. You have to equate what I am saying in terms of suffering and hardship on the part of families. Do you know what it means when a child has to go to school without breakfast? On one occasion last winter in Campbellton 69 children in one school alone went to school without breakfast. Do you not think that this is a crime, when we live in a country where every Canadian is potentially the richest person on earth, yet children have to go to school without breakfast? Am I going to support a government that does not do more than it is doing to correct these things?

I was shocked when on February 15 the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. McCleave) moved the adjournment of the debate on the motion then before us involving some kind of move toward reciprocity rights for the people of ridings such as mine. I was shocked that he should use as an excuse for moving the adjournment of the debate a snowstorm that had taken place ten days before, when in fact the snow had mostly all melted away. Before leaving the house for a meeting on maritime problems on the night of that debate I had been assured that the motion would not be adjourned.

As a result I was not here to answer some of the ridiculous and irresponsible statements made by the hon. member, which confused and hurt the rights of the workmen in eastern Canada. This hon. member for Halifax would do well to get busy and do more for the unemployed people of his own riding, instead of hindering other members who are trying to get this government to do its duty in alleviating the suffering and hardship of hundreds of families whose breadwinners are without work and who, because of the inertia and dog-dancing in the Department of Labour, are not getting the unemployment benefits to which they are entitled. And I am not referring to the Minister of Labour. I feel that he is one of the finest ministers of labour this country ever had. I refer to the government.

The hon. member for Halifax knew very well that I had spoken to the minister by telephone some 10 days previously, suggesting that I go down to Maine to see what could be done. He, of course, very properly assured me that I could not get any official status from the government to do so. Official status to go down there had been refused as it had been refused in the days when I was in opposition. The hon. member for Halifax knew that without official authority to make an agreement on behalf of the government—which authority, by the way, seems to be given readily enough to some Liberal experts who are still in the Department of Labour—it would be impossible for me to negotiate the