

The minister will say, I am sure, that the bulk of the money came from the federal government. Of course it did, as it does for all housing.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Orlikow: But until the NDP government came to power—and the minister knows this—there was no public housing, no senior citizens housing built at all.

Mr. Epp: Not true. There was senior citizens housing.

Mr. Orlikow: Mr. Chairman, the member says it is not true. On another occasion I will bring the exact figures here. I am speaking from memory, but I am 95 per cent certain—

Mr. Epp: I do not really want to get into a debate, but I think it has to be made clear that if the hon. member wants to make a statement that there was no senior citizens housing prior to the election of the NDP government in 1973, the facts simply do not bear that out.

Mr. Orlikow: In fact I am speaking from memory, but on another occasion I will bring the actual figures. There were less than 1,000 units of public housing, or senior citizens housing before 1969, when the NDP formed the government. In the period from 1969 on, there were more than 10,000 units. I, for one, never thought it, did not think then and do not think now, that my own government did as much as it could have. But they did make substantial improvements in the inner core of the city. The minister knows that the NDP government began projects like the Winnipeg Centre project which is, at the present time, training 50 people in the inner core of the city, most of whom are natives, to be teachers, something we never saw in Manitoba, or probably in any of the other provinces, until the last two years.

Mr. Chairman, what bothers me about this bill, and what bothered me about the minister's statement on Monday, is, not that they are necessarily bad in themselves, but in his enthusiasm it seems to me that the minister creates an impression among people—if they take him seriously—that these kinds of projects—and the minister says, and he is right, that we should not expect there to be a single simple solution to the problem of unemployment that is correct, but we have a right, and the people of Canada have a right, to know what the government's over-all objectives are, the government's over-all assessment of the problems we are going to face, and how the government expects to deal with those problems.

When one looks at the actual scope of the problem, one can only be struck by the smallness of the government, the meanness and the niggardliness of the government's response to what is the most serious problem of unemployment that this country has faced since before World War II.

The latest figure we have for unemployment is that 7.5 per cent of the labour force is unemployed. Around 900,000 are unemployed. Economic research organizations, such as the C. D. Howe Institute and the Conference Board, estimated that the present rate of unemployment, the present rate of 7.5 per

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cent, would rise this year to 8.3 per cent, because they could see several months ago that the United States was facing a recession. What we saw in the last month or so is that the recession in the United States and in Canada is going to be much more serious than most people expected.

The minister surely knows that in the United States there are some 250,000 unemployed auto workers. The minister surely knows that in Canada there are 30,000 auto workers unemployed. The minister surely knows that sales of north American cars this last month were down by something over 20 per cent in both Canada and the United States.

Mr. Epp: Thirty-one per cent.

Mr. Orlikow: That has a ripple effect. Because automobiles are not being sold, and therefore, not being produced, the rubber industry will slow down, the glass industry will slow down, the plastics industry will slow down, the iron and steel industries will slow down, and this is the reality.

Today in the Toronto *Globe and Mail* the business columnist quotes Wood Gundy, certainly not an NDP organization—

An hon. Member: A friend of the NDP.

Mr. Orlikow: Not an NDP-sided organization, a very respected financial institution. It predicted that unemployment this year in Canada will reach 9 per cent.

So I say, Mr. Chairman, we have a right, the people of Canada have a right to know what is this government, which was elected largely because it told the people of Canada that the go-slow policies of the Conservative government, which was in power for such a few months, were the wrong policies, and that they would get this country moving, planning to do.

We see in this bill which we are discussing today this employment tax credit act, I suppose \$100 million. We see the announcement the minister made on Monday.

An hon. Member: Friday.

Mr. Orlikow: Whatever it was, \$160 million, whatever it was. Let us take the minister at his word. We have the right to ask the minister a question. This is not the only thing which the government is doing, that is, the employment tax credit bill, and the statement he made on Monday about programs to provide job opportunities is part of it. What are the other parts? When the year 1980 comes to an end and the government has had an opportunity to put into effect all the programs which it has either announced or is now planning, what will we see? What will the unemployment rate be?

● (2140)

Mr. Hawkes: Why ask him?

Mr. Orlikow: I would like to know what the minister has to say about this. The minister ought to ignore the implied suggestions of some Conservative members of Parliament that unemployment is not very serious, that there are jobs out