

country that has been in bad financial straits. The editorial that appeared the other day in the *Toronto Star* is an indication of what the Labour government intends to do to labour in England. The article to which I refer is headed "Labour government cracks down on labour". It points out that there will now be a "cooling off period" of 28 days and refers to other curtailing factors which the N.D.P. would no doubt consider anti-labour. Although the philosophy of the major parties may not be the best in the world, it is still much better than that of the New Democratic party.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Would the minister permit a question?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): I must inform the house that the minister's time has just expired. Does the house give unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

• (5:30 p.m.)

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I hope there is time for one short question. I realize that the minister has been dealing mainly with figures and percentages that are rather large. But I wonder if, before he resumes his seat, he would comment on the situation which still faces people who come under his responsibility, namely those in the Unemployment Insurance Commission who have been told they are going to lose their jobs. In particular, will the minister explain why it is that if there are only 50 to be laid off across Canada there are 14 of them in Manitoba? We don't usually share that well.

Mr. Mackasey: The unemployment figures in the west are considerably better now than in the days when Tommy Douglas led the Socialists in Saskatchewan.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Mackasey: There is now less need for unemployment insurance offices in that part of the country. However, that is not the full answer. I wish it were.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I trust the minister has an answer to the question.

Mr. Mackasey: Yes, it is long and detailed. I have been anticipating the question and I can read the answer if you wish. We are proud of the fact that a potential lay-off of 800 people will be reduced to less than 50. I

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am not aware of the location in Manitoba of the 14 people who are to be laid off and I am not sure the hon. member is either. However, I am sure he obtained his information in good faith.

I have been advised by the Unemployment Insurance Commission the people who will be laid off will be notified officially as of February 28, which is still a month hence. It is difficult to say just where these people are located. People employed by the Unemployment Insurance Commission who are to be laid off will be given six months' notice, whereas a public servant receives only three months' notice. This is what will happen.

The Unemployment Insurance Commission has decided to issue six months' notice as of February 28, 1969 to all redundant staff who would have been merit listed according to the Public Service Employment Act and were not placed in alternative employment by that date. The hon. member will understand this gives a particular person, or persons, an added opportunity to find work once they are so classified. I, personally, hope that in the six month interval alternate work is obtained for all of the 35. I am sure the employment market during the next six months will be buoyant enough to absorb these people.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): When a person has been a civil servant for 25 or 30 years, is it any easier to accept unemployment after a six month notice than after a three month notice?

Mr. Mackasey: We can debate this all day. If the hon. member would give me a specific example of a person working for the Unemployment Insurance Commission for 25 years who is to be laid off, I will personally see it does not happen.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I shall do so.

Mr. Cliff Downey (Battle River): It is my purpose today—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order, please.

[Translation]

Mr. Henri Latulippe (Compton): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the minister.

An hon. Member: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order. The hon. member for Compton (Mr. Latulippe) would like to put a question, but I wish to