

*Expedition of Public Services*

Why? Because he has worked, because he wanted to help himself, because he wanted to assume responsibility for his own future, because he wanted to keep busy instead of wasting his summer doing nothing. That one is not encouraged.

The student who failed to find a job, who was not able to work for pay during the summer, will apply for a scholarship and will get one, Mr. Speaker, taking into account, always, his parents' income.

Then, the authorities will say to the young: Get on the bandwagon, help us to build this country!

Mr. Speaker, that is a very definite example, that we are now experiencing, which shows that this particular policy with regard to scholarships has the direct effect of discouraging the young from helping to build their country. One prefers to have them doing nothing during the summer and to help them through welfare payments when they attend school—scholarships amount to that more or less—and to make of them human wrecks who no longer have the heart to put up a fight.

Let us consider unemployment for instance. It is obvious that the Unemployment Insurance Act is in itself, outside of the economic and social context, excellent. It is obvious that it provides for the payment of benefits up to \$100 a week, thus assuring some security to the unemployed.

But if I go further back into this legislation and if I put it in the economic and social context in which we live, I can say straight out that we have reached a stage in Canada where it pays more to be unemployed than to work. We are now at the point where unemployment competes directly with work. It is surely not a measure meant to encourage the individual to take responsibilities, to participate in the building of his country.

• (1600)

Mr. Speaker, a man is ahead in Canada if he works during seven or eight months of the year and draws unemployment insurance and welfare benefits during the other four months instead of working all year long. And while that man is living off the fat of the land, because the ever more powerful government has convinced him that it is better that way, most Canadians are going to work for the government.

What about the old age security pension? They give something, but just enough to disgust the people. From 60 to 65 they cannot work any more, or most of those people have lost their job. Furthermore the amount they get is insufficient.

More cynical than ever the government grants them a monthly increase of 42 cents. Patent proof that even that program is insufficient and does nothing more than keeping the recipient near the poverty level. That is the way our Canadian citizens are rewarded.

I shall quote another example to show how far from the individual we are in our socialization system. Some farms in the past could provide a living to even ten generations, not small but large families, of which our people were proud. Now, farming cannot provide a living for the farmer. The government said: We will organize production. It said to the various producers: Improve your land,

[Mr. Fortin.]

your equipment, your buildings, your herds. The farmers replied: But, we have no money. Again the government came up with this: There is no problem, we will finance you. That is how the federal and provincial farm credit organizations were established. All farmers took advantage of them. And at that time, the government was already beginning to subdue people who until then had led an independent life. They turned to farm loans, which were good in themselves, but very bad on the whole.

And the governments thought: We are controlling his production now let us control his income. This is how the Canadian Wheat Board and the Canadian Dairy Commission were invented and quotas imposed. When a farmer does not fill his quota, fair enough, he gets a grant from the government. He becomes a civil servant.

But when the farmer exceeds his quota not only does he not get any help from the government but he is fined for having worked too much. He must pay a fine for having got up too early to defend himself in his own country.

What are the results, Mr. Speaker. The radio and the newspapers advertise auctions: Auction for Mr. X in Township Y, auction of Mr. Z. in Township W, and so on. Farms are deserted. What is done about it? The social-oriented government has foreseen everything and says to the farmers: Move to the cities, desert your farms, the government will take them over; come to the cities and you will attend training courses.

The farmer attends those courses and wakes up unemployed. It is not better than before. He finds himself with useless diplomas and ends up on welfare.

This is quite serious. And yet in connection with the delayed employment cheques, what did the government do? Instead of dealing with this problem, on January 26 the minister sent a letter to all the unemployed whose cheques were delayed telling them to go to the nearest welfare office to secure a loan and that after they got their benefits they would be able to endorse their cheques and refund the welfare office.

The worker, who used to be independent, has gone unemployed because of the stifling and omnipotent government bureaucracy. The individual eligible for unemployment benefits does not get his cheques, so he must borrow welfare money and sign an IOU; and when the government finally decides to send him his unemployment cheque, he must first refund his debt to welfare. This is when he becomes totally dependent because while waiting for his cheques he has used up his savings.

So there is another welfare system that is becoming permanent, there is another Canadian in the majority that the minority will have to serve from now on. We have come to a point in this country where more and more people depend less and less on others for their living. Fewer and fewer people are earning a living for the majority.

That is what we have come to, Mr. Speaker. That is why the governments, grits on Tories, that have been following one another for many years in Canada, kept on increasing taxes everytime they came back to power and everytime, Mr. Speaker, they introduce other socializing measures which are responsible for decreasing individual liberty and creating a growing feeling of insecurity.