

*Unemployment Insurance*

be established in the Dominion of Canada. We repeat also that, without the establishment of such a balanced economy, it is utterly impossible for Canada to lay down a sound, realistic and workable foreign trade policy. A country such as Canada will always depend to a certain measure, and possibly to a very great measure, upon a workable policy for exchanging the real surpluses produced within the country.

**Mr. Daniel McIvor (Fort William):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to add a few words to this discussion, though I will have some further questions to ask when we get into committee. I agree with some of those who have spoken that it is the duty of governments, federal, municipal and provincial, to aim at full employment. However, I do not believe there has ever been full employment in any country, because there are always some men who by their conduct unfit themselves for work.

This legislation is welcomed by the workers and employers at the lakehead; and I think it comes as the result of information that has been supplied to the department by officials there, among others. There were many people who could not qualify for unemployment insurance on the basis of 180 days, but who could qualify with 90 days. I do not agree with the acting leader of the opposition (Mr. Graydon) that we have to wait for war in order to find a remedy.

**Mr. Graydon:** I did not say that.

**Mr. McIvor:** We have the same brains that enabled us to do our part in winning the war. If those brains could do that; if they could convert our war workers into industrial workers, we should be able to do better now, because we should be wiser. The government did not wait for war before bringing in unemployment insurance or the family allowance. Compare the unemployment insurance cheques and the family allowance cheques that are being received now with what was coming in back in 1930, when the unemployed received sweet nothing. That, I think, is worth considering; and these amendments will help a great deal more.

We have unemployment at the lakehead. A person would have to be dishonest or blind not to see that. I expect that as long as we have seasons, which I suppose will be as long as we live, we shall have some unemployment there. The seasons affect employment on the lakes; they affect employment in the elevators and on the railroads. All three are affected when shipping is shut down. The weather also affects employment there. This winter we had some weather during which it would have been impossible for men

[Mr. Shaw.]

to work, especially in the bush. I know that in other years our seven or more big pulp and paper mills had to overcut their needs because of the budworm pest; and because they overcut their needs they did not need to cut so much this year. Another reason we have unemployment at the lakehead is that nearly all our saw mills were shut down through a lack of saw logs. Perhaps I should not mention this, since it is a provincial matter; but when it affects employment I think I have a right to touch upon it. I believe the premier of Ontario is going to remedy that situation; so we will give him credit for it ahead of time.

There is one further change I should like to see made. When a man quits work he should not have to wait any time at all before receiving unemployment insurance. Multiply one day, two days or three days by his salary, and see how much less he is going to have with which to buy groceries. I believe unemployment insurance should start immediately. If it takes a week to put through an application, the insurance should be made retroactive. Ninety days is a great improvement over 180 days, and I am sure we all commend the department on the way they have thought this out. I believe these changes will help in another way. They will help keep money in circulation, and even the Social Crediters tell us that the more money you keep in circulation the more employment you create.

**Mr. Graydon:** I suppose there is no one in the house who would be less likely intentionally to misrepresent statements made by another member than the hon. member for Fort William (Mr. McIvor); and I am sure he could not have understood the purport of my remarks when he made the statement he did. I did not say we should wait for a war to cure unemployment. I said we should not have to wait for a war for unemployment to be cured. I think when the hon. member reads my remarks he will realize that.

**Mr. McIvor:** If I did not hear the hon. member correctly, I ask him to forgive me. I understood him to say what others have said, that we must wait for a war before we get full employment. If the hon. member did not say that, he has more sense than I thought he had.

**Mr. J. G. Diefenbaker (Lake Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I have one or two suggestions to offer the Acting Minister of Labour (Mr. Martin) in connection with this resolution. I am not going to enter into the controversy over the question of unemployment, for there will be other occasions on which that subject may be discussed.