

● (8:40 p.m.)

On behalf of the company, I thank the government for such a policy which has prevented unemployment on a large scale in our community since Wabasso Cotton employs thousands of workers.

Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to hear the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson) tell us that next year millions of dollars will be invested in new industries across the country and I lost no time in inquiring to what extent my constituency will benefit from that. Charity begins at home.

I therefore found out that the Department of Regional Economic Expansion has received 22 requests from industries wishing to settle in my constituency, and which will benefit all, if their applications are approved, from government incentives, contributing thus to reduce the rate of unemployment, a realization much more efficient than any speech.

I am not talking about the substantial grants made, for instance, to composite schools, about the \$4.5 million granted recently to the municipality of Trois-Rivières, under the designated areas program, for housing projects. Because of certain representations, this assistance has been considerably increased, with the result that today, we have in our region a fairly decent employment rate.

For instance, certain amounts were allocated to the construction of decent housing for some 3,000 or 4,000 students of our University of Quebec, and there were many more. Therefore, the government has done something, and if the opposition wanted to be efficient, rather than waste a day in yacking, it would say: We will study the next measure and try to adopt it as soon as possible in order to reduce the unemployment rate. I believe that this would solve many more problems than all the palaver we now have all day. I apologize for behaving as badly as some others, but it is very easy to be led astray, even with the best intentions.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to make a correction. It was said that the situation which exists in Quebec, this uprising of a few FLQ members, could be a movement of revolt from young people who are held in unemployment and who are dissatisfied with the government. Well, I have another explanation. I know a good deal about this matter, because I have been studying it for the last 25 or 30 years.

Young Quebecers have 200 years of frustration ranking in their mind. They are trying to eliminate them. It was only recently that our English friends from other parts of the country realized that Quebec has the right to live on equal terms with everyone. I am not a separatist, but a federalist. I had to fight for being a federalist, and I still believe in federalism. I remember when I first came to Ottawa, people would tell me to "speak white" whenever I used the French language. I could relate scores of such incidents where French Canadians, barely accepted, were insulted. We are now attempting to redeem two centuries of history and this cannot be done in a year or two. The government under the Right Hon. Mr. Pearson initiated this movement and our present government

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under the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) is carrying on. I call upon all my friends of the opposition who, I am sure, are true Canadian patriots, to co-operate with us in order that we may achieve the understanding which is required to have all Quebecers accepted on an equal footing everywhere in Canada, in all fields of endeavour. Thus there will be fewer FLQ members and fewer unemployed people.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Théogène Ricard (Saint-Hyacinthe):** Mr. Speaker, upon reading the motion of the hon. member for York South, it is impossible not to note three very important points.

First of all, there is an unrelenting escalation of the unemployment level in all regions of Canada.

Then, those responsible in the field of economy foresee a still higher level of unemployment during the winter months.

Finally, substantial measures should be taken immediately to eliminate that unfavourable situation in the province of Quebec and particularly in the city of Montreal.

Mr. Speaker, what is the present situation in the province of Quebec and throughout Canada? The government members, particularly the one who has just sat down, may attempt by their speeches to convince the people that everything is for the best, but it remains, nevertheless, that there were, throughout the country, 419,000 unemployed workers in October 1970. These 419,000 people have the right to work but they cannot find employment because of the lack of foresight of those sitting on the government side.

In October 1970, the number of unemployed persons in Canada exceeded by 105,000 the number recorded in October last year and by 21,000 the number recorded in September of this year. In fact 6.6 per cent of the labour force is unemployed.

There was a time when we were sitting on the opposite side of the House and when those now sitting there were on this side. We heard quite a lot about unemployment in those days.

There could not be a lay-off without the three most influential Liberals, namely Messrs. Pickersgill, Chevrier and Martin, rising to sympathize with the unemployed workers' fate. And the story we now hear from the former mayor of Trois-Rivières and from others is quite different from what we heard in those days.

**Mr. Mongrain:** Mr. Speaker, on a question of privilege.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel):** Order. The hon. member for Trois-Rivières on a question of privilege.

**Mr. Mongrain:** Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend for whom I have a great deal of esteem and whom I know to be very