

Employment

pay less attention than they normally do to detail? Tomorrow the unemployment figures will come out again. It does not take much insight and it certainly does not give anyone any joy to know that those figures will show an increase in the unemployment rate.

Speculation has it that the official number of unemployed between now and the summer months will probably rise to one and a half million Canadians. That will be one and a half million unemployed in a population of 24 million with a labour force of some 12 million. In other words, that is one eighth of Canada's labour force that will be without jobs.

Just think of the consequences economically and socially that that has for Canada today. Even if we were to think of it in the narrowest dollar terms, the consequences are considerable. When I checked these figures, I was told that each Canadian worker contributes an average of \$20,000 a year to the gross national product. For one million workers who are now unemployed, it could mean an additional \$20 billion to our gross national product. If this contribution were to be made, think of how it would reduce our deficit. I ask myself why the government cannot see this. Why does it not choose to go the route of building up job opportunities, of getting the unemployed back into the labour force? Why does it not choose to go that route?

Mr. Kelly: Spend more, higher deficit.

Miss MacDonald: There is another of the backbenchers from the Liberal Party who is willing to put all of the punishment on Canada's labour force and make more and more of them unemployed. What kind of heartlessness is that?

Mr. Kelly: Would you raise taxes? Would you spend more?

Mr. McDermid: We would spend smarter.

Miss MacDonald: Why does the government not realize that the money it wastes or spends on so many useless projects could go into job-creation which would give jobs to Canadians, giving them back something they do not have at the present time? It would give them back their confidence and self-respect.

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Mr. Kelly: Give us an example.

Miss MacDonald: No, the Liberal Party does not want that. They want to see workers without jobs.

Mr. Kelly: Tell me how many millions would be saved. What would you spend it on?

Miss MacDonald: This government spends over \$100 million a year on advertising.

Mr. McDermid: Propaganda.

Miss MacDonald: That is exactly what it is. It is useless advertising by the government which is trying to embellish its reputation with the Canadian public. That \$100 million could

be spent in additional job-creation programs to help many workers in Canada.

Mr. McDermid: That is just one example.

Miss MacDonald: Why can the government not follow a course which would make an effort to help the unemployed of Canada re-enter the job market so they can contribute to the gross national product?

Mr. Kelly: How will you spend the money?

Miss MacDonald: But no, the Liberal Party and the member who is raising his voice obviously do not feel their government has any responsibility to provide for the unemployed in this country. This is a severe indictment of those people opposite who are content to see the number of jobless rise.

What is more disturbing about the loss to the economy because of this unemployment is the added social costs to Canada. We are losing our potential for the development of our great human resource. If the economic costs of unemployment are high, I would suggest that the social costs are probably higher. These costs are impossible to calculate in dollar figures but they contribute directly to the demoralization of our society. When hope gives way to despair, and despair is what the government is creating—

Mr. Kelly: What do you do?

Miss MacDonald: When jobs disappear into oblivion, people find other avenues in which to express their frustration.

Mr. Kelly: Stop clucking and tell us what you would do.

Miss MacDonald: This frustration becomes evident through higher rates of crime, juvenile delinquency, family breakdown and suicide. These are the consequences of joblessness. How can anyone put a dollar figure on these very real results of unemployment? How do you calculate despair and loss of hope for one million unemployed in Canada? The most precious asset a person has is self-respect, and so often when someone loses a job, his or her self-respect and confidence is lost along with his feeling of contributing to the economy.

Mr. Kelly: That does not tell me a thing.

Miss MacDonald: Studies have shown that a prolonged loss of work can change a person's whole personality. The pressure of losing one's job produces not only depression and frustration but anger and violence. Many studies have been made which show how interconnected these two are.

Mr. Kelly: Tell us what you are prepared to do.

Miss MacDonald: Studies in Toronto, Windsor and Oshawa, where massive lay-offs have occurred, show that the demands for social services have escalated beyond belief. A special committee which was set up to deal with the needs of the unemployed in Windsor showed that there has been a 400 per cent increase in case loads. The public relations officer of