

Interim Supply

Would it not be advisable for us to ascertain why Canada's unemployed population in relation to the working force is so high compared with the situation in Great Britain where, as I indicated a moment ago, it is but 2 per cent? Would it not be advisable for us to ascertain why the unemployed of Germany represent only 2.2 per cent of the working force of that country or why in Sweden, in the month of January, the unemployed in that country represented only 2.8 per cent of the working force of that country as compared with 8.1 per cent in Canada? Would it not be a help, would it not provide at least some understanding that might be of some encouragement to those people in Canada now out of work, if they knew why, in the month of January, our unemployed represented 8.1 per cent of the working force as compared with 2.2 per cent in the Netherlands? These are problems the answers to which we would all be greatly interested in knowing.

The Chairman: Order. May I point out to the hon. member for Essex East that he is not following the ruling and that he cannot, by delivering his speech in instalments, go around the ruling of the Chair.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I am not in the habit of going around the ruling of any chairman. May I say, Mr. Chairman that I would hope that you will give some care to what I am now going to say. I believe that in a matter involving the welfare of thousands of the people in our country—

An hon. Member: You said that.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Yes; and I am going to say it again because there are thousands of people in this country who want us to say it. I would say this, Mr. Chairman. On a matter of this importance we have the right to expect the Chair to give the most liberal interpretation to acts of those who sit on the opposition benches. That is the tradition of this chamber. To suggest that to compare unemployment figures in Canada with unemployment figures in other countries is outside the rules of debate, even as limited as this one is, is an argument with which I would find it extremely difficult to agree. Surely it is possible for us, in dealing with the request of this government to ask for further moneys, to question the competence of the government in terms of situations that are reflected in the unemployment problem that now confronts Canada.

I say this to the Minister of Labour. This party put forward certain views or certain proposed solutions. The Minister of Labour promised that he would give consideration

to those proposals in the last statement he made in this chamber. The minister has not yet replied. The only indication we have now of an interest on the part of this government or of a concern on the part of the government with regard to this problem is the announcement today that, pursuant to a request received from the secretary of the association of mayors and municipalities in Canada, the government has decided to extend the winter works program one month. That proposal was made by members of the opposition weeks ago. It was made by some hon. members sitting to Mr. Speaker's right and who are supporting the government. But the Minister of Labour, I am sure, does not for one moment argue that to extend this weak program of winter works for one month into the month of May is going to take care even of the additional unemployed we have in our country now compared with the previous month. The most that can be put to work, the Minister of Labour said by way of estimate, under the winter works program is some 40,000. Since we had the last figure there are 55,000 more unemployed. Is this the only program the government is going to offer in order to try to meet the situation?

The Minister of Labour has not dealt adequately with our suggestion that this problem ought to be taken from the Department of Labour and transferred to the government as a whole. Particularly after the comments made the other day by the governor of the Bank of Canada, I think it will be generally agreed that this is a problem which rests not in the hands of the Minister of Labour but which resides with the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Defence Production, the Minister of National Health and Welfare, the governor of the Bank of Canada, and others.

Why should we not have, as proposed by the Leader of the Opposition, a council on economic development, automation and employment? I ask hon. gentlemen when they come to consider this problem to examine what has been done in the United Kingdom. I hold in my hand a little book called "All the Answers", 1959 edition. This book is produced by the Conservative party in Great Britain, and it is the program of the party that bears the name formerly employed by hon. gentlemen opposite when they sought the support of the Canadian people. I ask them to listen to what is said on page 31 with regard to total employment in industry. Here is what the Prime Minister of Great Britain, Mr. Macmillan, whose name was referred to today on orders of the day, and his government say about the way they tackled the problem of unemployment. In Great Britain