

### *Labour Adjustment Benefits*

delivered to my house back in Saskatoon, which I will read. As Your Honour can see, it is signed by approximately 100 people from Uranium City. They are just average citizens in Uranium City who have signed this letter to endorse their feelings as expressed by Mrs. Carol Reekie, who lives in Eldorado, Saskatchewan. It is addressed to the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and, it states:

I would like to know what gives you the right to put over 800 people out of work? You, as the representative of Canada, is supposed to stop unemployment not create it. It's easy for you, you are not the one out of a job, and you do not have to worry about personal money problems. What about us? What kind of support are we or should we expect from you, if any at all?

I hear you are retiring in the spring, well, for the benefit of the people of Canada, I think you should. I as a voting person, voted for the Liberal Party—

The following words are capitalized:

—WELL, WHAT A DISAPPOINTMENT! I think if you would have taken a larger interest in the mine, you might have stopped the downfall of the mine. Why was Eldorado permitted to build so many new homes, build a new cookery, renovate the rec hall, make the move from Edmonton to Saskatoon, buy a new plane, and hire so many new employees if there wasn't enough work or money to do it, along with the fact a shutdown was being considered? I'm sure you feel there were good reasons for everything that was built or bought but I don't think anyone up here in Uranium City would feel they were good enough to put Eldorado more in debt to push for a shutdown.

A week ago a man moved to Uranium City with a wife and an above average amount of children. After the man arrived all he had left was forty dollars. The town people went around with a basket to raise money to give to the parents so they can buy Christmas presents for the children. Are you going to help all the families who are new up here and have no money, and for that matter, what about the older families who have bought property or businesses and can't sell them? Are you willing to buy them at a reasonable price? My bet is you won't do anything, like you said, we as the westerners don't like you, and as far as the Uranium City people are concerned you are not worth our time or money!

That was signed by Mrs. Carol Reekie and, as I said, by approximately 100 other citizens whose families feel very much the same with respect to the kind of treatment they have received from the hands of this government.

I have just a few more minutes left to speak, but I want to ask Your Honour what we have here concerning this legislation, this bill which is, at least, entitled "An Act to provide for the payment of benefits to laid-off employees and to amend the Canada Labour Code." We see right away that this government has gone full speed ahead with respect to employment opportunities as far as a new level of bureaucracy is concerned, because it has now set up, of course, a labour adjustment review board. It will create a few more jobs for people in Canada who are considered by the government to be appropriate appointments of people who carry the right political card. However, if we go on to see exactly what this act does, we find that it is a piece of legislation—I am sorry, Mr. Speaker. Am I getting near to the end of my time?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** You are, indeed.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** I have just a couple of observations. I am sorry to ask for the indulgence of the House, but I will be only a couple of seconds.

What I feel must be viewed very carefully in committee is the fact that this legislation gives carte blanche to the government to designate and deem, by order in council, areas which will be eligible for any benefits.

I made the second point earlier in my remarks, and it is my final remark. In terms of qualifications for benefits under Section 12 of this legislation, I find it very hard to understand how many people will be affected by this legislation and will receive any benefits. It is something we will have to view in committee, as the action of the government and this legislation causes us great concern. I thank Your Honour for allowing me the time that you have.

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

**Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South):** Mr. Speaker, prior to supertime, while in the elevator, the hon. member for Vancouver East (Mrs. Mitchell) asked why I, as a Conservative, was applauding the hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Kristiansen).

**Mrs. Mitchell:** I said I was glad you were supporting the NDP.

**Mr. Blenkarn:** She said that I was becoming a little left-wing. I fail to understand that remark, but since she is here tonight, I thought I might explain my feelings to her.

This bill is another bill which is designed by socialists to increase socialism by creating another board, another committee, another group, another branch of the civil service within the ministry of labour, another level of bureaucracy, and another payola for those who believe in big government in the same way socialists normally believe. I am delighted to welcome the hon. member for Kootenay West into the Conservative camp as he is at least able and willing to address this bill within its proper framework. It is exactly an effort by the Minister of Labour (Mr. Caccia) to produce a bill to create another board, another bureaucracy, another level of bureaucracy, another inquiry system by which some people can go into other people's places of business, their offices and inquire into their records, demand that they produce things under oath, demand that they do this, that and the other thing. It is another level of the same thing we have had too much of. You can already go across this country and ask people day after day what is wrong in Canada, and they say there is too much government, too much red tape, too much bureaucracy, too much, too much, too much, and this bill, sir, is too much, too much and is unneeded.

● (2050)

We have a ministry that is involved in manpower and unemployment insurance. The job of that ministry is to take people who are unfortunately out of work, unemployed, and find them other places to be employed. The job of that ministry is to conduct a retraining program, if possible. We know that in our society people are trained in school to do certain things, and they go and do those things but, because we are in a very rapidly changing world, people often have to find new sources of employment, new places to earn their livelihood and new careers. Some people in our society may have to find new careers twice or three times in their lives. That is the nature of a fast-changing society. That is why we have a