

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY, S.O. 58—REQUEST FOR ECONOMIC MEASURES, PLANNED INVESTMENT AND FOREIGN OWNERSHIP POLICIES TO ACHIEVE HIGH EMPLOYMENT THROUGH DEVELOPMENT OF SECONDARY MANUFACTURING

Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo) moved:

That this House calls upon the government to adopt immediate emergency economic measures to move the economy to high employment through special programs and more expansionary monetary and fiscal policies, and also to achieve full potential growth through a planned investment and foreign ownership policy and to stimulate the development of secondary manufacturing as the only way of providing the necessary employment opportunities for the hundreds of thousands of Canadians who enter the work force every year.

He said: Mr. Speaker, the importance of taking this day to focus attention on the matter of unemployment is emphasized by the fact that, in spite of all the assurances we have received from the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson) that the situation was improving, the latest figures show there has been a serious regression. Even on the basis of the figures issued prior to that it was quite obvious the economy was not making the kind of progress necessary.

We are strongly of the opinion that the Minister of Finance does not know what he is doing, that his government has no real policy for curing unemployment and that the minister has been walking over this economy with all the wisdom and grace of a demented, trampling hippopotamus. The Economic Council of Canada has pointed out in numerous statements that even with a steady increase in stimulus from the government, it would take almost four years to restore the economy to where it was. If we are going to get full employment, a far greater stimulus than that now being provided by the government will have to be provided.

Stimulating the economy will cause certain problems and I will deal with them later. If we are to overcome what I think is a serious problem we can do nothing less than bring in emergency economic measures. I am sure everyone in this country, including government members who either do not know what to do or refuse to do anything, will acknowledge that it is a serious problem.

Why are we so concerned about unemployment? Obviously, we are concerned for the people who are involved and about the dislocation, the cost to human life and the loss of wealth which has taken place in our economy. It is estimated we have lost between \$3 billion and \$5 billion in gross national product as a result of the high level of unemployment each year. Furthermore, we are not going to solve the basic problems facing this country if we continue to have present levels of unemployment. There are other enemies to national unity in this country besides the FLQ. At the moment, the greatest enemy is a government which brings in unemployment policies.

The problems of Quebec cannot be solved by implementation of the War Measures Act. These problems must ultimately be solved by a government which is

Measures to Improve Economy

able to persuade the people of Quebec that they have a worth while stake in this country, and there exists a federal government which is cognizant of their problems. It may be that even with the best economic policies we will not solve these problems. On thing is certain. Unless we make an effort to get rid of unemployment in Canada, and the situation that exists in the province of Quebec, we do not have a hope in the world of doing anything about other problems facing Canadians today. It is imperative that we do something about unemployment. If the price of correcting unemployment is an increase in inflationary tendencies in this country, then I suggest to the Minister of Finance and this House this is the kind of price we must pay. There is really not much of a choice, the breaking up of the country or a somewhat higher rate of inflation than we have experienced.

There are other problems we have to solve. It is obvious the government is developing a policy of moving people off the farms. The government is spending a few hundred dollars to compensate each farmer. I am not convinced this is a desirable policy, but if the government feels some of this dislocation is necessary for the sake of long-term interest in agriculture, then the government has the enormous obligation of providing adequate compensation to the farmers affected. It cannot do that unless we keep the economy rolling.

This is an area in which the interests of the farmers and the interests of industrial workers are similar. If we are going to make payments available to farmers and develop programs to help them, this can only be done on the basis of national prosperity. We will not have national prosperity in a climate of high unemployment and in which billions of dollars in production are being lost. We cannot tackle the problem of poverty in this type of atmosphere. We cannot tackle the problems of economic independence while we are totally preoccupied in slowing down the economy, which has been the government's policy.

The government has slipped very badly in the last two years. It was slipping even before then, but its decline has been more rapid in that period of time. Canada now occupies fourth place in the world in terms of per capita income. Our position has been surpassed by Sweden and Switzerland, and we are well on our way to becoming fifth or sixth. This is not a record in which any government could take pride.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) has been playing a strange little game. The keeper of that zoo over there has been aware of the clumsiness of the government. He does not mind everyone being stepped on. He says, we are stepping on you so we will not be stepping on you. In other words, we are creating unemployment so there will not be unemployment. Those of us on this side of the House could perhaps be forgiven for not being able to see the logic of the kind of argument in which the government says, "We are throwing you out of work so that you will not be out of work". It is as though the creation of unemployment today will stop unemployment in the future. This is not something any reasonable person can accept. Not even the Prime Minister of this country, with his swinging charm and new Sir Wilfred Laurier haircut,