

Unemployment Measures Lacking

be wiser for them to take advantage of buying bonds since the latter would warrant investments.

This suggestion I make with all deference to the Minister of Labour (Mr. MacEachen) and the Minister of Finance (Mr. Gordon). In my opinion, they could take such a step to encourage workers to take an active part in the development of industry by investing of their own accord part of their savings.

We wish our industry to become Canadian, and this will be achieved inasmuch as Canadians individually are willing to invest in it part of their savings. But in order to do so they must have work first, they must earn wages and they must not carry a tax load such as the one we are preparing for them.

Mr. Lucien Plourde (Quebec West): Mr. Speaker, it is with pleasure that I take part in the debate on the subamendments and amendments that were submitted regarding the question of unemployment and more particularly since I represent a riding where the number of unemployed is high and the unemployment situation is the main problem throughout the country.

My constituents, who are working people, find it hard to make both ends meet; unemployment is really a problem that concerns everyone of us. We should try together to consider the various aspects of that problem in order to find a solution; it is all very well to say that it is one of the main problems we have to approach and that the Liberals have promised to act upon it during the election campaign.

They are being blamed today for being too slow; quite so, but I think all parties should get together in order to solve the problem. It is claimed that the Liberals have no plan whatsoever whereby they could check unemployment in Canada and that they take a long time to find proper solutions.

Mr. Speaker, if we pause in retrospect, we, who have been in this corner of the house last year under Conservative administration, may wonder whether the Conservatives had found a formula with which to put a stop to unemployment. No. They preferred putting the matter off and letting someone else bear the heavy burden that rested with them. Will this government also reject their responsibility by putting off as much as possible the day of reckoning or the time to take a definite stand regarding the unemployment situation?

Mr. Speaker, here again formulae are being suggested that will come to nothing and that will by no means solve the problem we have to tackle.

Let us consider for instance the \$500 grant that has been offered for the winter building of houses; that is all very well in the opinion of our Canadian fellow citizens, but when we

[Mr. Lessard (Lake St. John).]

are aware of the fact that on account of the 11 per cent tax imposed upon building materials, every new house will cost from \$800 to \$1,000 more, we wonder whether the grant is something worthwhile.

In fact, who is going to pay once more? Who will have to bear the loss? Obviously the buyer of the house; he will be the loser once more and merely because an effort will have been made to provide some work in order to put a stop to unemployment.

And what about the statement made last Saturday over the radio, in Ottawa, to the effect that contractors were putting off work until December? They lay off their workers in November, making unemployed out of them. Yet, the idea was to check unemployment.

Such measures result in unemployment; they are known as yokes.

Mr. Speaker, it will no doubt be said: "But yourselves, the Creditistes, the members of the Ralliement Creditistes, what can you do?" Only Social Credit has a solution. There is no miracle involved, but we have what is needed to check unemployment, not only to try and check unemployment, but to check it. We are the ones who have this formula. We set it forth in our speeches last year, and we shall repeat it again this year. We shall explain how we would manage to check unemployment in Canada.

Social Crediters are not confused by the progress of automation. Automation does not frighten us. On the contrary, we are happy about it, and everybody should be happy, since, at last, the individual shall be able to live on earth not as a slave but as a reasonable person, as a human being entitled to every respect.

Mr. Speaker, when we look at the animals, at the birds, we find they have no diplomas and they do not worry about their next meal. They do not have to worry for Providence looks after their needs.

But we, who have an intelligence and a cultivated mind, who hold diplomas, who have a soul to save, we have to struggle with the problem of providing for our food, and that problem becomes of such prime importance that we forget why we were born.

Mr. Speaker, we should not dwell on that problem; we, too, should rely more on Providence.

The problem facing everybody today, throughout the country, is a problem of finance. There is a lack of financial means, and, because there are no financial means, there is no work. Now, when there is no work, there is unemployment. We are in a vicious circle, we run around as a dog trying to catch its tail. In brief, we are getting nowhere.