

*Employment Programs*

they face deprivation and frustration in the period immediately ahead. In the meantime misery, insecurity and frustration abound in Canada and particularly, as we have seen, in the province of Quebec. We have seen the climate of desperation that has been created there and what a haven for terrorists has been created by this general climate.

● (9:40 p.m.)

I say quite seriously that if you were to arrest every FLQ member in the province of Quebec tonight and were to apply capital punishment to them, there would be a fresh crop there tomorrow morning until and unless you get rid of the economic conditions which make it possible for these people to flourish. They flourish in an atmosphere of social insecurity and social despair. The fact that 38 per cent of all the unemployed in Canada in October of this year were living in the province of Quebec adds immeasurably to the dangers and troubles not only of that province but of all Canada.

Now I want to turn my attention to the other side of Canada, my own province of British Columbia. This morning's issue of the *Globe and Mail* reported a rash of lay-offs in the softwood plywood industry in B.C. That province manufactures practically all the softwood plywood in Canada. These lay-offs are being carried out by the five big plywood companies in B.C. Reference was made by one hon. member tonight to a certain industry being a key sector in his riding. Well, I say that the forest industry is the key sector in B.C. It is by far the biggest industry and it provides more help to other industries and services, more jobs and security for people, than any other industries in the province.

The lay-off situation which the *Globe and Mail* reported this morning is the latest blow in a whole series of unemployment disasters that have overtaken B.C. these last few months. We are deeply worried in the province, particularly when we see the forest and lumber industry being overtaken by unemployment. We are appalled by the refusal of the government to reconsider its policies and try to study ways and means of providing immediate employment. This would not deal with the situation in a large way but could provide help for a great many families this winter.

Let me give the House the B.C. unemployment figures very briefly. In September of 1969 there were 33,000 unemployed people in B.C. and in September of this year there were 58,000. In October a year ago there were 40,000 unemployed in B.C. and in October of this year 69,000 were unemployed. Even those tragic figures do not tell the whole story. I am told that the unemployment figures do not include Indians. Evidently Indians are not considered persons when the unemployment figures are computed. I do not think women, either, are counted as persons because I know—reference was made to this matter by the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis)—that when unemployment is bad there is much less chance for women to get jobs and a great many women, having tried in vain, stay home and give up in despair. This simply means that the standard of living in that

[Mrs. MacInnis.]

family goes down, with all the unfortunate consequences for the family and the lack of opportunities for its children.

Some time ago the Economic Council told us that we in Canada could not tolerate a higher rate of unemployment than 3 per cent and still have an acceptable standard of living. We have almost 8 per cent unemployment in British Columbia today. We also have well over 100,000 people on welfare in that province. This means a great many things so far as a healthy situation in B.C. is concerned.

Taxes in Vancouver on ordinary family homes have gone up over 10 per cent every year for the past four years. They have increased in the past four years by nearly 50 per cent. What do the taxes go for in the city of Vancouver? The largest costs for the city of Vancouver are the police. The police union is suggesting an increase in pay, and already their costs constitute the largest single item in the city's operating budget at \$10.5 million. The police commission is also asking for more policemen and more equipment. The total extra bill will be about \$750,000. I want to say right now that increasing the number of policemen and their equipment will not do any more for B.C. to ensure law and order in that province than it will to do the same in the province of Quebec, if the economic situation is allowed to worsen.

Social assistance costs are another major item in the city of Vancouver's budget. They amount to about \$7 million. This figure is four times what it was just four years ago, and it is going up. Even if the economic climate in 1971 improves, the city's share of social welfare costs will be much higher for the total year than they have been this year. The influx of young transients has added to the problem. I dealt with that matter earlier this year. The costs that were being added by the young transients—and even at that, the welfare department reports that less than 10 per cent of the assistance money is paid to people from out of town—have added to the problem still further.

I point out that a serious situation is being faced by Canada's third largest city, when over 100,000 people in the province are receiving welfare and when the welfare budget in the city of Vancouver has increased to four times what it was just four years ago. It is not surprising to find that the mayor of that city is longing to apply a similar measure to the War Measures Act, to divert attention from the fact that he is not dealing at all with the unemployment situation there.

I should now like to recapitulate some of the measures which we think should be taken. This afternoon the hon. member for York South spoke of the federal government calling together the provincial premiers with a view to seeing what could be done, not as a long-range measure but to get us through the winter. That is an eminently sensible suggestion and one with which I think the government would find it very hard to quarrel. The only point is that it must be done now, because very speedy action will have to be taken if people are not to suffer