

Supply—Labour

I have examined one or two of the advertisements and they can be construed equally as political propaganda as they can be in giving encouragement to the particular service they are trying to sell. I hope the government will be extremely careful in the spending of public funds not to incur commitments, the main purpose or the only purpose of which, is merely to try to win friends and influence people, especially since the government is preparing to ask for another judgment of the Canadian people.

(Translation):

Mr. Valade: Mr. Chairman, I did not propose to take part in this discussion because I know that we will have an opportunity of coming back to it when the estimates of the labour department are voted.

However, I do want to refute the entirely uncalled for remarks of the hon. member for Maisonneuve-Rosemont (Mr. Deschatelets) to the effect that the methods used by the Conservative government in order to stimulate employment in this country have completely failed. I think he is entirely wrong. He should rather have mentioned that the policy of the provincial Liberal party was a complete failure because it did not avail itself of the facilities put at its disposal by the Conservative government in order to create employment. Contrary to the failure which my friend alluded to a few moments ago, 15,000 more jobs were created in the city of Montreal this year, thanks to the policy of the Conservative government—

(Text):

The Deputy Chairman: Order. The Chair has been quite lenient in this debate. After all, we are discussing the question of advertising in connection with seasonal unemployment. We are not discussing the whole question of unemployment in the various parts of Canada.

Mr. Valade: I was just saying, Mr. Chairman, that as a result of the advertising that was undertaken in Montreal 15,000 more employment opportunities have been created.

Mr. Carier: Mr. Chairman, I just want to set the record straight with relation to what was said by the hon. member for Port Arthur a few minutes ago. The hon. member for Port Arthur seems to have gotten his principles mixed, if he has any principles at all. The whole principle at stake, and the whole point the hon. member for Trinity was trying to make, was that we should be straightforward and honest in what we do. We should not use subterfuge to obtain an objective indirectly which, for political reasons, we prefer not to attack directly. This is the prin-

[Mr. Hellyer.]

ciple at stake, and I commend it to the hon. member for Port Arthur and to his party.

Mr. Benidickson: This item is couched in rather general language, and we find a number of subjects apparently are involved. The purpose of the item is said to be to combat "seasonal unemployment", the organization and use of "workers for farming" and related industries and "assistance to the provinces". It seems to me that this is the appropriate time to ask the Minister of Finance who, after all, has to be consulted with respect to all new programs, before they develop, with regard to including under unemployment insurance those seasonal workers who have been employed on farms. I do not need to remind him that for the last couple of years farm organizations have made representations along this line.

The Deputy Chairman: Order; I think perhaps the hon. member is straying away from the subject matter of this vote. I believe this vote is for the promotion of these particular things and we should not discuss whether or not they should be done.

Mr. Benidickson: I draw to the attention of the committee the fact that there is a reference in the wording in this vote to a promotional program to "assist the provinces" and for the "organization and use of workers for farming". I point out to the committee that at least the Manitoba minister of agriculture, Mr. Hutton, has indicated as late as this month that his government favours the extension of unemployment insurance to farm workers. I was wondering what the development was along this line.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Chairman, that has nothing whatever to do with this item. This item is related to a publicity and promotional campaign. It has nothing whatever to do with the question of amending the Unemployment Insurance Act. At a later point in the session the government's bill dealing with this matter, as announced in the speech from the throne, will be submitted to the house.

Mr. Benidickson: Now we have the truth. This item has no relationship to anything except a "publicity and promotion campaign". Despite this other very fine language in the vote about the special services branch dealing with promotion programs for "combating seasonal unemployment", for "assisting workers on farms", who we know are on a seasonal basis, and for the "assistance of provinces" in connection with agreements, the Minister of Finance said this item, in essence, is simply a publicity item.

Item agreed to.