

Supply—Labour

we are going to have it for a long time to come. I think the government should admit that they no more have the answer than the Liberals did when they were in power and were criticized so justifiably by the Conservatives when they sat on this side of the house.

I think they should admit quite frankly that the winter works program is not the answer. I think they should face up to the fact that the government must accept the responsibility for this problem. I say that it is time the government and parliament declared war on unemployment in Canada. If we had an enemy force of 800,000 knocking at our doors it would not take us long to mobilize the whole country, and I suggest that unemployment involving 800,000 people as we have today constitutes an enemy within our borders. We will certainly not meet the situation by blaming each other. I submit it has been proved in the past that when the government and people of Canada realize a situation they can meet the situation. I say in all sincerity, let us face up to the problem, admit that the situation is as bad as it is, and on that basis maybe we can go ahead and do something about it.

Mr. Creaghan: Mr. Chairman, I have just a few words to say in this debate but I feel some responsibility to clarify the record as much as possible with respect to some of the statements that have been made with regard to the maritime provinces and in particular the province of New Brunswick. Upwards of a month ago the hon. member for Gloucester put a question on the order paper and the answer given by the Minister of Labour can be found on page 706 of *Hansard*. The question concerned the total number of people unemployed in each of the reporting centres for Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. The answer given by the minister came as somewhat of a shock to me because it showed that Moncton had 9,620 people unemployed as of January 7 out of a total of about 30,000 for the province of New Brunswick.

When I saw that answer I made certain inquiries in order to satisfy my own curiosity as to just what was meant by "Moncton". I have ascertained that this reference to Moncton means the county of Albert, the county of Westmorland, the county of Kent, the city of Moncton, the town of Sackville, the town of Shediac, the town of Dieppe and all of the other incorporated municipalities in these three counties, which represent by far the greatest portion of the east coast section of New Brunswick. But in addition it includes 2,135 people from the Magdalen islands in the province of Quebec.

The figure of 9,620 did not necessarily excite the people in Moncton because they know it is not possible for 9,620 people to be unemployed in a city of just in excess of 40,000 people. However, there is some responsibility on me as the member for Westmorland and as a resident of the city of Moncton to state publicly that the figure includes—I want to be accurate—1,963 in the so-called area of greater Moncton which includes the area of Riverview in Albert county, the town of Dieppe just east of the city, the former areas of Parkton and Sunnysbrae and a great part of the parish of Moncton; in other words, an area of approximately 75,000 or 80,000 people.

Most of the unemployment reported out of the city of Moncton office involved people who are normally employed in the so-called unskilled occupations. In the first place, unskilled construction workers account for nearly 2,000 of the 9,620. The Magdalen islands, which are outside the province of New Brunswick entirely, account for more than 2,000 people, and the remaining portions are broken down into less than 500 for the Shediac area and nearly 600 for the area represented by the reporting station in the town of Sackville. Those figures are applicable to early in January. In all probability they have increased since that time.

What we are debating here under vote 615 is an item of \$15 million to aid winter work throughout the country. The member for Renfrew North stated that his particular area found it difficult to take advantage of the legislation, and I know he is right. I know that many speakers are correct when they say it is not possible for all municipalities to take advantage of this aid. I know that as of February 5, 60 applications had been received by the Department of Labour from the province of New Brunswick and 58 of them have already been approved.

This vote will not necessarily cure the problem of seasonal unemployment in the east coast region of Canada nor in any other section of Canada. All that the legislation attempts to do, and certainly all that anyone expects it to do, is to ease it, not to erase it. As the member for Restigouche-Madawaska stated, we have had seasonal unemployment in eastern Canada all of our lives. I am not saying that we will never get rid of it but I feel quite confident that this legislation will go a long way toward eliminating long periods of seasonal unemployment for some of our people.

On February 12 the regional director for the Atlantic provinces of the unemployment insurance commission gave his monthly report. I have before me a clipping from the *Moncton Transcript* of February 12 and