

Unemployment Measures Lacking

and despite it they will have the biggest deficit of any government since the first world war.

Let us turn, for a moment, to what are known as the slow growth areas. During our term of office certain measures were taken in this field and no complaints were received from any of the municipalities. I understand that the organization which will now be responsible for this situation is to have 35 divisions included within 10 branches designed to promote industry and develop a multitude of measures which are now being promoted by industry itself. I want to point out that as result of Liberal policies between 1945 and 1955 there is now close integration between the economies of Canada and of the United States. This being the case, the present government would be better advised to put forward plans and programs of a positive and constructive nature which would attract the support, or at least receive the acquiescence, of the United States rather than carry out the type of guerrilla warfare we are now carrying on in this country. I invite the government to look at the facts which they themselves were instrumental in creating. I would ask for a return to realism, a return to common sense in these matters.

Finally, in view of the fact that the policies which they have produced up to now, policies which they claim are meant to deal with unemployment in this country, are proving to be self-defeating, abortive and negative, and since they have failed to produce any effective policies to deal with winter unemployment in particular, I should like to move, seconded by my hon. friend from Pontiac-Temiscauingue (Mr. Martineau):

That all the words after "that" be struck out and the following substituted therefor:

"This house regrets the failure of the government to introduce any effective new policies or programs to reduce substantially unemployment in Canada, and in particular to alleviate winter unemployment, so as to achieve the promised full employment as undertaken in the Liberal party election promises."

Mr. D. M. Fisher (Port Arthur): The amendment moved by the former minister of labour (Mr. Starr) is a familiar one. I imagine there has not been a year since the 'thirties when some want of confidence motion has not been produced in these general terms. As a consequence, this is a topic which has been well thrashed out and kicked around.

It seems to me the former minister of labour was trying to make a distinction along these lines: there has been some amelioration of the unemployment situation this summer, but if there is an improvement the government of which he was a member deserves much of the credit. However, he contends that the basic approach of the Liberal party since

[Mr. Starr.]

it took power has given no indication that they have any fundamental policy which is likely to solve the unemployment problem in the long term. It seems to me that if I am giving anything close to an accurate paraphrase of the gist of the hon. member's remarks he was, in effect, acknowledging that the government of which he was a member did not have a fundamental approach to this question of unemployment, and its solution. The call from almost everybody in politics, particularly at election time, is for the unemployment problem to be tackled. I suppose everyone, if they are in politics, has gone into a tremendous amount of detail in their thinking, whether it be their thinking about their own particular region or the country as a whole, in trying to respond to this particular problem.

It does not seem to me that it is soon enough to judge really whether some of the things introduced by the present government, or in the stage of being introduced, are going to have a marked effect. For example, the municipal loan fund has been called an utter hoax by the hon. member for Ontario (Mr. Starr). I think this is the kind of hyperbole you get in House of Commons debates. It may be an utter hoax, but in his analysis of it I have not really got from him just why it is an utter hoax and how he can be so positive it is an utter hoax. Yet I can appreciate his reason for making that statement. I can remember that when he was on the government side and introduced such things as the winter works program somewhat similar phrases were bandied about as to the contribution it was likely to make to the situation.

The problem that we see in the unemployment situation really relates to something to which the hon. member referred, namely whether you take a piece by piece approach to it or whether you try to make some all-out approach throwing all the resources of the government into the solution of this particular problem. It seems to me that our practice has been a very empirical one in Canada. We have tended to take a piece by piece approach. Perhaps in the light of how pieces of legislation relating to employment matters move through the House of Commons, this has seemed sensible.

One of the most disturbing things at the present time is the callousness that exists in the country about unemployment. If one happens to live in an area where there is a good situation, concern tends to disappear very quickly. I am disturbed at the present time over the situation in my own area. We have had an excellent summer. With the prospect of the big grain movement out of the west through our ports, and all the fillip that gives to the transportation industry there is a