

Unemployment Insurance

Mr. John M. James (Durham): Mr. Speaker, I speak at this time on this particular grievance in order to let the house know that British Columbia is not the only place in Canada where fruit is grown. We also have a very large fruit growing area in Ontario.

An hon. Member: Where?

Mr. James: I could mention Durham county, and I understand there are many other areas where apples, peaches and many other fruits are grown.

An hon. Member: And asparagus.

Mr. James: In connection with the plea of the British Columbia fruit growers for assistance, I have every sympathy for their situation because the apple growers have also had a difficult year in Ontario. I speak of them in particular, though my remarks could apply equally as well to the growers of many other types of fruit. One of my colleagues has mentioned peaches to me, and these are grown near St. Catharines where he comes from. There are many other hon. members from Ontario who could speak of the difficulties experienced by fruit growers in their areas, and who would join with me in urging the government to provide every possible assistance to the fruit growers of Ontario.

I understand some difficulty has arisen in past years through providing assistance to fruit growers in one part of Canada and not providing assistance to fruit growers in other parts of the country. I can well recall instances in the past when assistance was provided to apple growers in British Columbia or Nova Scotia but not to those in Ontario. In some instances this has seriously annoyed the fruit growers of Ontario.

Mr. Herridge: But they do not export.

Mr. James: This was not a large factor but it was an annoying one, and what we found was this. The fruit growers of British Columbia or Nova Scotia, as the case may be, on occasion received subsidies and the Ontario fruit growers did not. The next thing we discovered was that Ontario markets were being lost to British Columbia or Nova Scotia apple growers who, whether you like it or not and you can apply it in any way you wish, in effect used the money they raised for a vast promotional build-up in Ontario, and they were able to take over markets such as the large grocery stores in this province. It was very difficult for Ontario growers to compete with them because, as you know, British Columbia apples are packed and wrapped much fancier than are ordinary Ontario apples. It has been suggested by some of my hon. friends, though

I would not have dared to suggest it, that the flavour of British Columbia apples is not nearly as good as that of Ontario apples. The consumers were overcome by the huge advertising program that was conducted; a subsidized advertising program, if you wish to describe it that way.

Mr. Fulton: Is my hon. friend saying that the Ontario people are gullible?

Mr. Harrison: You have had your subsidy.

Mr. Fulton: Are Ontario people gullible; is that what you are saying?

Mr. James: No. Ontario people are not gullible.

An hon. Member: No, just tolerant.

Mr. James: Ontario fruit growers have had a difficult year and they would like equal treatment with the other parts of the fruit growing industry in Canada; that is all they ask for.

As a matter of fact our Ontario fruit growers on the rare occasions when they have asked for any assistance have asked for it in a form that would help the industry in the long run.

It is my plea that any assistance that might be forthcoming from the government—and I would certainly like to see any possible assistance given to the fruit growing industry in all parts of Canada, because I realize it needs it and many of my hon. friends also realize it needs it—will not be just a selective measure for one part of Canada but will be spread right across the country and made available to fruit growers everywhere. At the same time, if there are any people here who have not eaten Durham apples I urge them to start eating them at the earliest opportunity, and I can assure you that you will find they are wonderful.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE—ALLEGED DELAYS
IN PAYMENT OF BENEFITS

Mrs. Ellen L. Fairclough (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I presume that subject is exhausted. I have a grievance I should like to raise and I shall not take very long. I see that I have two minutes at my disposal, and I believe I can state my grievance in two minutes.

Mr. Byrne: Thirty seconds.

Mrs. Fairclough: I could probably say more in 30 seconds than the hon. member who interrupts can say in 30 minutes.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.