

Senator Roblin: When I consider the job layoffs and changes which have taken place in the last three or four years where there has been a dramatic dislocation in the employment of people in Canada, due to the economic circumstances they have had to bear, and when I consider the gratifying results that have been achieved in the last little while—over half a million new jobs have become available to the people of Canada—I think I can give my honourable friend some reason to believe that we will be able to cope with these things satisfactorily. I certainly have no intention of attempting during this Question Period to deal with the rest of his question, which is a matter of detail that is not known to me but is certainly under study by the private sector union and management committee that I have referred to.

Senator Gigantès: Will the honourable Leader of the Government do us the favour of looking into this issue and perhaps give us some information? Before he answers that question, may I say I am also pleased to have him refer to the creation of jobs as part of the record of the government, which the Prime Minister says is at a record rate. I would like to point out that the 17-month period to which the Prime Minister refers, from the beginning of September 1984 until the middle or end of January 1986, is not a record period; 579,000 jobs said the Prime Minister. But 597,000 jobs were created from August 1978 to January 1980—597,000! The percentage increase—that is the number of jobs created, divided by the labour force at the end of the period—under Mr. Mulroney's changes was 4.5 per cent. In the previous period it was 5.6 per cent. Perhaps the Conservatives would have done better to have kept Mr. Clark, because Mr. Clark's participation in that was better than Mr. Mulroney's. Mr. Mulroney has been producing 34,000-odd jobs per month on average, whereas Mr. Clark produced more and the Liberals produced still more—36,125.

So these little records are not really significant. What we want to know is what planning the government is doing and what studying the government is doing so as to be prepared for any further dislocations and to make the lot of the people easier. I would appreciate it if the Leader of the Government would inform us when he has some details.

Senator Roblin: When one considers the depth of the loss of employment in the period we were discussing, some 5 per cent actual loss of jobs, one recognizes the magnitude of the problem we have ahead of us. We are going to do our best to produce even better results for the people of Canada.

AGRICULTURE

SUGAR-BEET INDUSTRY—1983 STABILIZATION PAYMENT—GOVERNMENT POLICY

Hon. Joyce Fairbairn: Honourable senators, I just wanted to report that I have returned from a colossal blizzard in western Canada, which in the case of southwestern Alberta, this weekend, was great for the farmers. However, it did nothing to cool the fire in the ranks of the sugar-beet farmers of southern Alberta who have seen yet another deadline pass

[Senator Gigantès.]

without an announcement from the government on a national sugar sweetener policy or, indeed, on their stabilization payment for 1983.

● (1430)

The attitude in that part of the country has hardened considerably since we had an emergency debate in the Senate a couple of weeks ago. It has hardened to the point of calling for the resignation of the Minister of Agriculture, and also to the point of planning a large demonstration on Parliament Hill on or about March 3.

I wonder if the Leader of the Government in the Senate could give us any indication of the timing of any possible announcement that might avert the kind of demonstration that I think makes a great many of us uneasy.

Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government): It is a gratuitous exercise to predict when cabinet is finally going to deal with a matter, as those who have served in cabinets would agree. I am a little reluctant to accept my honourable friend's invitation to give a date.

I can tell the honourable senator, though, that I have every expectation that any demonstration on or about March 3 would be unnecessary.

Hon. H. A. Olson: What is your definition of "expectation"?

Senator Roblin: My honourable friend can suit himself in defining that. I have said that my expectation is that it would not be necessary to hold a demonstration on Parliament Hill on or about March 3.

Senator Phillips: Read Charles Dickens!

HEALTH

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES—CANADA'S PARTICIPATION IN WORLD IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM

Hon. M. Lorne Bonnell: Honourable senators, a press release I received today conveyed some very good news. However, that press release also contains alarming facts. According to UNICEF, in 1985 measles alone killed two million children, tetanus killed one million children, and whooping cough was the cause of death of more than half a million babies. Polio, diphtheria and tuberculosis continue to take their toll among children, and our Prime Minister, at that great summit conference, made an announcement that Canada would contribute \$10 million to the immunization program for countries that are members of the Francophonie.

I wonder when we can expect a similar announcement of support of such a program for member countries of the British Commonwealth of Nations so that more of the world's children can be saved from these dreadful diseases.

Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government): I think a program with respect to the anglophone sections of the Commonwealth is already in force. One of the things I did during my recent visit to South Africa was attend in the remote rural part of one of the countries a health station that was built by