

that it should exist in quantities sufficient to allow men to trade or to create services useful to society.

Evidently, this budget provides some benefits, for instance, funding investments aimed at helping the municipalities to do something. I am sure, and I am saying it now, that the greater obstacle the municipalities are bound to encounter will not be planning, because they have had projects in mind for a long time, though being unable to carry them out. And a date is being set. The thing should not be considered before December 6, I believe that we must show some leniency on that point. Nonetheless, we must give municipalities a chance, even though they have put their projects on paper before December 6, though they were not in a position to carry them out; we must be generous and not unduly hinder the municipalities willing to take part in those programs.

Mr. Speaker, if the government worked seriously to deal with the unemployment problem, we should not always be starting all over again. We are going to have to think about setting up an income security plan as soon as possible in order to enable individuals—no matter how old—to meet their essential needs.

Mr. Speaker, this morning I received a letter from an unemployed worker who would like very much to work so as to be able to build a house. He tells me in his letter that his rent is \$130 a month and that if there existed a program to help low-wage earners to build a house, this monthly rent could be used to meet the cost of building the house, on really favourable loan terms. If the government really wants its program to be effective, the hon. Minister of Finance is going to have to be mindful of what he has promised to announce when he will be tabling his estimates on February 19. It will be realized then . . .

[English]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member, but the time allotted to him has expired.

**Some hon. Members:** Carry on.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Is it the wish of the House that the hon. member be permitted to continue his speech?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

[Translation]

**Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank my hon. friends for allowing me to conclude . . .

**Mr. Leblanc (Laurier):** Mr. Speaker . . .

[English]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Laurier rises on a point of order.

[Translation]

**Mr. Leblanc (Laurier):** Before allowing the hon. member for Bellechasse to continue his speech, I would ask him to confine his remarks to the subject now under study and not discuss housing, because this subject is not being debated. Therefore, I would rather see him stick to the item under study.

25714—70

### Supply

[English]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. No strings can be attached to the consent. The Chair will have to determine whether the hon. member is in order. I must ask again whether it is agreed that the hon. member may continue his speech. Is that agreed?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

[Translation]

**Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, I was under the impression that I was in order as I was discussing the causes of unemployment. It is not only a matter of applying a band-aid on a wooden leg, but of finding ways to avoid a repetition of this situation.

Furthermore, taxes on building materials are interfering with the construction of a great number of housing projects, which results in many workers being unemployed. In fact, such taxation is only an indirect cause of unemployment and it is my opinion that this problem should be settled, not only for months but for the years to come.

I believe these supplementary estimates have some value though I would have preferred to see more included in them. This is the reason for the suggestions made in my comments. I understand that we might not be able to do it in the next following weeks. In any event, however, it is a member's duty to make really serious suggestions to improve the situation.

• (1630)

**Mr. J.-Roland Comtois (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I will try to be quite brief, but I still would like to make a few comments on the matter now before the House.

We seem to forget that the \$350 million fund for winter projects will simply allow the government to grant loans to the provinces and municipalities until May 31, 1975. And what surprises me, Mr. Speaker, is that for once the official opposition seems in agreement with the government estimates, because the Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) said in committee last week that he estimated at \$75 million the needs of the provinces until March 31, 1973, and we see now the opposition for once agreeing with the estimates and ready to grant its support for this amount of \$75 million.

Mr. Speaker, we want to allow the provinces and the municipalities enough leeway to present projects which will really meet their needs and which, at the same time, will reduce unemployment especially during the winter months.

In order to promote this concentration of supplementary works during the next two years, this same program includes an important stimulus providing for the forgiveness of an amount equal to 50 per cent of the direct onsite payroll costs until May 31, 1975.

And in answer to the hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Lambert), I must remind him that this forgiveness applies 12 months a year and not only during the winter months.

As for the second part, this is a supplement of 50 per cent of the direct onsite payroll costs from December 6,