

problem that faces the man who must go home day after day after day and face his family. His wife and children only have to look at him to know what the situation is. I allude to the native people as well. What effort is this government making to improve things for a group in this country that is 90 per cent unemployed? It is just keeping them on welfare. How demeaning this is for the man who has to go home and face his wife and family. How demeaning it is for the man who is laid off.

The Minister of Finance should bring in legislation before Christmas that would get the economy going again. We are on the skids and will have 1.5 million people unemployed by March. Bankruptcies are at an all-time high and all across Canada people are frightened. They are looking to each and every one of us, whether Liberal or opposition, to do something to get the economy going. They are not looking for welfare handouts such as are provided by Bill C-78.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Gordon Taylor (Bow River): Mr. Speaker, this bill is an act to provide for the payment of benefits to laid off employees. When I read the bill, I find a number of loopholes and that there is every possible reason for not paying benefits to employees who are laid off. Almost all the government's policies appear to be designed to create massive unemployment in this country. The budget does it by discouraging investment and savings, by discouraging people from working. This bill promises hope of payment if someone is laid off from his job. If that happens, the person is put through a number of miserable investigations before he is told he will not receive any payment. It may be that he is the wrong age. Mr. Speaker, an unemployed person is an unemployed person. He does not have to be 51 or 54—he may be 36 or 24. He may have worked in an industry for ten years before being laid off, but when he is unemployed his kids get hungry and his wife bleeds when you prick her.

What is all this nonsense about a man having to work so many years before he can have benefits! There are people in this country who may have worked for seven years with a company but now that there is no work for them, their children are going hungry. But the government promises a man employment and then conducts an investigation to see if he is really unemployed.

Clause 4 provides for another investigation, by the commission. How many investigations are necessary to establish that a man is unemployed? What more does the government want to know? This bill is designed to fool the people and make them think they are getting something. But people are not so easily fooled, Mr. Speaker.

If the government wants to do something for the country, why does it not encourage industry? Why is it sending capital out of the country? Why is it sending people who are prepared to work out of the country? This government does not start industries, it stops them. There has been talk about Cold Lake and about Fort McMurray, but really, nothing is being done to try to get work going. Our people go down to the United States to get jobs.

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The unemployed in this country are unemployed, Mr. Speaker, and they do not need an investigation to show that. We buy millions of tons of coal from the United States which produces acid and sulphur, but we leave the Canadian coal miners without work. In this country we have coal that is almost sulphur free, but we continue to buy coal that is 5 per cent sulphur from another country. We export our jobs.

What is wrong with this government? Why does it not start some industries and entice people to invest their money? The budget does the opposite. It makes people ask what is the use of investing in this country. According to Bill C-48, if people do invest and make good, then the government will expropriate. This is becoming a socialist country. This government is leading the way to the worst kind of socialism. Even a socialist government would try to keep people working, but this government is trying to keep people unemployed. It wants to keep a mass of people unemployed and dependent on the government so that when they have to cry for bread they will do what the government tells them. That has been done in the world before. This Liberal government is trying to duplicate something that is deplorable, that is devastating, that is ruining this country. It had better wake up before the whole country goes down the tube and the government goes with it.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

An hon. Member: On division.

Motion agreed to on division, bill read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Labour, Manpower and Immigration.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Is it agreed that we call it ten o'clock?

Mr. McDermid: May I call it ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

● (2200)

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[*Translation*]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been made.

TOURISM—IMPORTANCE OF EVENTUAL PARTICIPATION OF QUEBEC IN FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE

Mr. Marcel Roy (Laval): Mr. Speaker, on December 4 of this year, I asked the Minister of State for Small Businesses and Tourism (Mr. Lapointe) a question about the participa-