

Supply—Labour

No longer can this government go on month after month, in the face of this serious situation, without at least seeking to establish that it is making every effort possible to relieve this country of what on the domestic side is a most serious problem.

Unemployment is serious; it is demoralizing; it is economically wasteful; it will damage our society more than anything else unless we show a capacity to overcome it. It is inexplicable that in Canada, this rich country, there should be such contrast with other countries in the western world. Switzerland is importing labour from Italy; Germany is importing labour from neighbouring countries. The United Kingdom has fewer than 250,000 unemployed in a population of 50 million. Canada has a population of 18 million, and on the basis of the minister's own figures there are on the unplaced applicants' list 782,000 people receiving unemployment insurance. On the basis of the dominion bureau of statistics figures that reflects an increase of 134,000 people unemployed in one month.

In the face of all this I say to the Minister of Labour, for whom personally I have the highest regard, trying to sympathize with his position, recognizing that he is a member of the government, that at long last he should recognize the emergency of this problem. If he is not able to satisfy the government as a whole about its need, will he not indicate what is his general thinking so we can help him to resolve this major problem which is now in the character of a disaster, and which has to be faced by the government of our country, or suffer the consequences.

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Chairman, it is my duty, as I see it, to speak for the people of my riding and of Canada who are without work and who cannot find work. Some of the things I am going to say will not please the Liberals; many of the things I am going to say will not please the Conservatives. However, Mr. Chairman, I feel it is my duty as the representative of the people of Restigouche-Madawaska to say them. I am sorry that is the way it has to be, but I am the same person now that I was when I raised these issues on the other side of the house back in 1956 and early 1957.

I never came to this house to enter a popularity contest. I have never sought anything except results for my people. I have always considered politics the art of the possible, and that the measure of a member's value to his constituents is the degree to which he can get results from governments. To those of you who are usually so prone to interject, may I ask one simple question? Did you have a good breakfast? The people on

whose behalf I speak have not had a good breakfast, in fact many of them had no breakfast at all, and that includes many children.

Some people do not realize the situation. I had one reporter from Toronto come down to my riding two weeks ago, and he just could not believe that those conditions existed in Canada. Well, I said, "After this when I make those statements in Ottawa about conditions as they exist here, I certainly wish the members of the press gallery would not be so quick to think those conditions do not exist", because if any member wanted to take the trouble to come down and see those conditions as they exist there would be no doubt left in his mind.

Mr. Hellyer: He should take a look at his own city.

Mr. Van Horne: I am coming to that.

Mr. Hellyer: That reporter should look at Toronto.

Mr. Van Horne: I see; I have no doubt. I have never criticized any government for the sake of criticism. I feel it is the duty of a member of parliament to express his views as he sees them, and to demand from governments those things which are absolutely necessary on behalf of the people he is elected to represent.

On New Year's day I was out over the New Campbellton-Cross Point bridge now under construction. Over 300 men were at work there. They were working before New Year's and after New Year's on a project which this government had started through the efforts of the former minister of public works and with the assistance of the Minister of Veterans Affairs and the Prime Minister in a very conscientious and serious effort to do what it was possible to do, the things that we had been asking for for 100 years. If you go down to Dalhousie, New Brunswick, you will also see that a new year round port is being built, with icebreaker service. This will probably mean 500 jobs each winter for the people who live in Dalhousie, New Brunswick.

If you go through the riding you will see one public building after another being erected; you will see a new station erected in Edmundston, and you will see that hardly a request made by me to this government for a public works project has not been complied with, and in such a way that it is now under construction. As a matter of fact many of those projects have been completed. Therefore I say as I have said before, that this government has undertaken more, spent