

Supply—Labour

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Chairman, this tremendous economic upsurge about which the Prime Minister has spoken does not alter the fact that there is still a greater percentage of unemployed in this country than in the United States or the United Kingdom. While seasonal and other considerations have reduced the number during the summer, seasonal factors will soon be moving against employment. What we are asking is that plans should be made now to take care of this situation if this autumn and winter there should be abnormal unemployment. When this matter was brought up a few days ago the Minister of Labour had this to say as found on page 5958 of *Hansard*:

We hope the situation will be such that it will not be necessary to have this program repeated.

Also we hope the situation will be such that this program will not have to be repeated. But this government has an obligation to plan against that situation, to plan in advance a winter works program to take care of the situation if we should have abnormal unemployment. It is not good enough for the Prime Minister to say to-night that they are considering the matter. It is not good enough for the Minister of Labour to say, as he did on July 14:

Whenever further consideration has to be given to this problem because of circumstances which may arise, this government will always look sympathetically on the matter.

It is not good enough to look sympathetically on the matter of winter unemployment. It is more important to plan in advance with the provinces and municipalities so that such unemployment can be reduced, not by 35,000 out of 600,000 as was the case last winter but more effectively than that.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I do not want to add to the discussion at this time except to say my information is that so great has been the upsurge that at the present moment there are 200,000 more employed in Canada than at any other time in our history.

Mr. Benidickson: Population increase.

Mr. Herridge: Because of the strong concern of this group about this problem I cannot resist saying a word or two. I cannot resist reminding the Prime Minister that when it was raining in the winter months and we were suffering from widespread unemployment the government did not take credit for that but blamed factors over which they had no control, lack of foreign markets, international conditions, and compared our circumstances with those in the United States, but I notice now that he is taking the credit when the sun shines.

I want to join with the other speakers in urging the Prime Minister to plan now for

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

any unemployment that may develop next winter. Not only is it to the advantage of the human beings concerned but it is to the advantage of the country as a whole to avoid the unfortunate waste that goes with large scale unemployment.

Mr. Benidickson: May I just add that I hope the Prime Minister will take into consideration along the same line the winter works opportunities available under the northern affairs votes for picnic grounds and forest access roads. We know that in 1958 the announcement was made in November. The starting date was December and the provinces were not capable of taking advantage of the program until well on into the winter. I hope that some assurance will be given that this will be continued.

Item agreed to.

Resolutions adopted in committee of supply this day reported and concurred in.

WAYS AND MEANS

Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance) moved that the house go into committee of ways and means.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Rea in the chair.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton) moved:

That towards making good the supply granted Her Majesty on account of certain expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1960, the sum of \$2,509,880,956.37 be granted out of the consolidated revenue fund of Canada.

Motion agreed to.

Resolution reported and concurred in.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton) thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-73, for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the public service of the financial year ending the 31st March, 1960.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first and second times and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. Rea in the chair.

On clause 1—*Short title*.

Mr. Herridge: Can the minister assure the house that the language of this bill is in exact terms with the usual bills?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Yes, the bill follows the established form. There are no departures from that established form.

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 2 to 5, inclusive, agreed to.

Schedule A agreed to.

Schedule B agreed to.

Preamble agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill reported.