

would you be reassured by the Government opposite? I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that you would not be. Would you be happy with the Government for ignoring your concerns for so long and now rushing the legislation through? I cannot over-emphasize that fact. The Government has not weighed carefully all the planning or all the contingencies, and it has been especially negligent in the past in anticipating technology. It has not anticipated technology to the slightest degree. The Government has not recognized nor has it rectified safety and health hazards. This is a very, very serious area that we as an entire House should address together. As the Hon. Member for Fraser Valley West has pointed out, he is prepared to expedite this particular piece of legislation.

I would like to comment briefly on the labour and management relations and the lead role that the Bill should play in that area. The mishandling of the Labour Code by the Government is part of a bigger problem—its attitude toward labour and its poor handling of those relations. The Government in Ottawa must take the blame for much of what is wrong between labour and management today. Not once has it come up with a reasonable idea or given great consultation to labour and management in working together. It has consistently dodged and ignored the basic requirements. It is of absolute necessity that we establish and start working toward good, sound labour-management relationships. This area should be included in the federal Labour Code.

We must start looking at work sharing. However, here again work sharing can only be achieved with a sound economy. I have had discussions with the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Deans) regarding youth unemployment. I pointed out that work sharing is inevitable. However, we must have a responsible and sound economy if we are going to enter into this particular area. We must improve technology and distribute profits equitably. If we do not improve our technology, we will not be able to compete in the world of tomorrow. That will compound the unemployment problems which we now have. If we are going to move toward work sharing and a more equitable distribution of wealth, it can only be achieved if we maintain a high level of technology.

I would like to speak very briefly about women in the workplace. With the rising rates of divorce and the rising rates of unemployment, there are substantial numbers of women who are being told that their jobs have been terminated. However, their responsibilities for the needs and support of their children have increased. The average income of a man is approximately \$35,000, whereas for women it is about half that figure, that is, \$17,000. The Hon. Member for Kingston and the Islands (Miss MacDonald) will be speaking today on this subject. However, I wanted to mention the fact that I am concerned about the plight of women. I think that all governments should be concerned. As well, I think that the Labour Code should address this very, very important item as well as those of technology and safety.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Herbert): There follows a period of ten minutes for questions and comments. For a question, the Hon. Member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow).

Supply

Mr. Orlikow: Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a couple of questions to the Hon. Member who just spoke. He talked about the fact that 30 per cent of Canadians are functionally illiterate. That is true. He criticized the federal Government for not dealing with this very important defect in our education system. That criticism is one which has been made by many other Members on both sides of the House. He also talked about the fact that we have one of the lowest numbers of apprentices of any of the modern technological societies and that our technical education is deficient. All of that is true. For all that, the federal Government must share a very large part of the responsibility. But I would like to ask the Hon. Member: Does he not realize that under the Constitution and the provisions of the British North America Act, education is the responsibility of the provinces?

What has happened is not just that present and past federal governments have failed to deal with the problems. If I could digress for a moment, I would like to say that in the Diefenbaker years great strides were made in the setting up—because the federal Government helped fund them—of technical schools which later became community colleges. The fact is that not only has the federal Government failed to do what it should have done, but virtually every provincial government has failed. What we have seen in the last few years, particularly during the last few years of the recession, is that not only has the federal Government cut back on what it should be spending on this kind of education, but almost every provincial government has cut back also. No province has been more ruthless and more determined to make the cutbacks and to put those cutbacks into effect than the Hon. Member's own Province of British Columbia with its Social Credit Government. I would like the Member to comment on that point.

Mr. St. Germain: Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for his question. I understand the problems of the federal-provincial agreements on education. However, I honestly feel that the lead role must come from this Government. If the Hon. Member has been watching, traditionally the Government opposite has not been able to work with the provinces. If the leadership is not to come from here, and the other ten children are faltering along the way, I think that it is our responsibility as a senior government to provide the leadership which is required. Inevitably we will be footing the bill. We pay for UI and we share a major cost of welfare. I am fully aware of what the Hon. Member is saying. I am not here to protect any province or any provincial Party. I am here to represent people at the federal level as I was elected to do. That leadership is our responsibility. We will not gain anything by throwing bric-a-brac at the provinces. The only way in which we will achieve anything is by working together with the provinces and showing them, if they have shortcomings, where those shortcomings are. Criticism is fine as long as it is constructive.

Mr. Kristiansen: Mr. Speaker, I listened with interest to the comments made by the Hon. Member for Mission-Port Moody (Mr. St. Germain). He wondered aloud why the New Democratic Party, and I think myself in particular, should have