

problem, but a cultural and ecological problem. They require both long-term and short-term solutions.

Let me say a few words about the cultural problems. There is a lag between employment in the 1980s and the way we approach it. We continue to approach employment in terms of the 1950s or 1960s when there were 40-hour work weeks 50 weeks of the year until the age of 65. The fact is that new techniques make a great deal of that type of employment redundant.

As presently structured, our society cannot handle that redundancy. Therefore, we deal with it by creating a kind of caste system. At the top of this system are people who continue to have relatively well paid, full-time jobs. As well, these full-time jobs have fringe benefits which also vary with the job.

The level next to that cast contains a growing number of part-time employees who are generally lower paid and have few or no fringe benefits. They are usually called to work during periods of peak activity at jobs involving a great deal of stress. We can see this approach being taken by many supermarkets and department stores. In many cases, these stores have very few full-time employees and an increasing number of part-time employees. Unfortunately, that is the position being taken by the federal Crown corporation, Air Canada. That is why there is a labour dispute in that area. As our Leader pointed out recently, these people do not want to be involved in the labour force only to make pin money. They need jobs that have real income.

At the third level of the caste are those who work on short-term, low paying projects. These are job-creation projects. It is interesting to note that in many parts of British Columbia today these job-creation projects cumulatively become the largest single employer in that province. It is unacceptable that these people must live in uncertainty by working from project to project for which funding is often sporadic. There is no need for people to be stuck in a low wage, short-term project ghetto, because jobs for which there is a need in our society could be provided with the proper funding and planning.

Finally, there is the question of the unemployed. There are 1.5 million people unemployed in Canada, 220,000 of whom live in British Columbia.

A letter from the British Columbia Forest Industry Employee Adjustment Committee to the Minister of Labour (Mr. McKnight), the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Miss MacDonald) as well as to provincial Cabinet Ministers, tries to make some suggestions that will deal with some of these short-term cultural problems. It is important to recognize that this committee represents both union and management. It suggests that the entire British Columbia forest industry should be designated and thus be eligible for federal help. It suggests that there should be a program under that designation for voluntary early retirement at the age of 56 and that there should be such things as enhanced unemployment insurance benefits and skill upgrading. The committee makes the point that this will make a more effective use of Government funds by allowing some older workers to retire early,

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leave the labour force with a decent income and allow younger workers who are presently on unemployment insurance or welfare to have a chance to work.

The committee points out the very serious problems in the forest industry in British Columbia. The letter states:

Over the past 5 years the number of production employees in the B.C. Coast Forest Industry has declined by 14 thousand. Of these, approximately 3,000 workers lost their jobs due to permanent closures and 7,000 to technological change. Most of the 14 thousand people are now unemployed and have no realistic prospects for returning to work. In addition, several thousand currently employed workers are working less than full time.

That is one reason why Members from our Party sometimes sound as if we were preaching gloom and doom. When we return to our ridings, we are faced with situations such as that. I am very surprised that when Conservative Members return to their ridings they do not see the same situations. They stand in the House, take a Pollyanna-like attitude and say that everything is rosy. They want to defend the Social Credit Government in Victoria. They suggest that the federal Government has taken initiatives to help British Columbia, but I challenge them to say what the Government of Canada has done during the past eight and a half months to alleviate the unemployment situation in British Columbia. It has done absolutely nothing.

We have 23,000 fewer people working today than when the Government came to power, and the Government is responsible. It promised jobs but it has not delivered on that promise, and I think it is time that the Government did so. It has finally been able to co-operate with the Government of British Columbia to the extent of issuing a joint press release. I would like to see those Governments co-operate to the point of creating jobs.

**Mr. Brisco:** Mr. Speaker, let me make the observation that there is only one mistake in the motion put forward by the NDP today. It concerns the date. The date of the motion is May 15, 1985, but to be more accurate and to give a proper perspective to the motion it should read, May, 1973, May, 1974 or May, 1975. I will tell you why, Mr. Speaker. In that period, the NDP Government was in power in B.C. During that time, a provincial Minister of Mines by the name of Leo Nimsick introduced mining legislation that shut and slowed down every mine in B.C. Those that were not shut or closed down never started up. The whole mining industry from the associated service sector to the mining sector collapsed. The Hon. Member for Kamloops-Shuswap (Mr. Riis) knows what I speak of. All he has to do is to tell this House what the miners still remember about that legislation. It took 10 years for the industry in British Columbia to recover. Let us not shove all the blame on my colleagues in the NDP. They are the federal component. I am talking about their provincial element. It was the most pervasive and destructive piece of legislation to impact on a mining industry, an industry which is slow to respond. If any of those Members had a grain of sense, they would know that it takes a long time for the mining industry to crank up, and it is just beginning to crank up again in British Columbia.