

The Address—Mr. Boisvert

could—and that is not asking for the moon because it also belongs to the Americans—ensure a fair distribution of industry throughout the country through genuine incentives which, while respecting free enterprise, would put all Canadians on an equal footing, thus eliminating underdeveloped areas in Canada and keeping Quebec from constantly lying in stagnation, having to do with crumbs. By that I mean industries in which Ontario or the western provinces show no interest and which pay low wages and prepare workers to spend winter drawing unemployment insurance benefits that they will in fact get in the spring only, all this thanks to the system we now have.

What is required is a true industrial policy based on short and long term planning, satisfying the requirements of the environment and respecting human dignity.

The existing legislation as well as those that are being proposed in the Speech from the Throne are nothing more than stop gap measures, an inconsistent policy of social welfare that will benefit only the rich companies.

Some industries have undertaken a real blackmail campaign against this government and the Canadian people while literally demanding to be paid for making profits. It is highway robbery to demand to be paid by those who, in a number of cases, are being exploited, and to demand from low income taxpayers that they pay taxes not for bridges, roads, schools or hospitals, but for dividends that directly fall into the shareholders' pockets.

If this government really wants to have a sound industrial policy, it will need a sound basis, one that will resist any pressures while providing the country with a modern, flexible monetary system based on respect for the community and intended to look after the interests of Canadians.

This industrial policy should include efficient measures on behalf of the unemployed.

Right now the Unemployment Insurance Commission is in a terrible mess. In fact, I am receiving complaints by mail, by phone and from people who come to my Drummondville office saying that their unemployment insurance benefits are not coming in or are late. People have not received anything for two, three or four months and this is called insurance.

It is a real joke because when you are out of work and thus deprived of income this is when you need money the most. The first objective of unemployment insurance is precisely to fill that need and I say that the Unemployment Insurance Commission will not give the service it was created for.

Yet, the Speech from the Throne says, and I quote:

In respect of people who can work but are temporarily unemployed, legislation will be introduced to clarify certain aspects of the Unemployment Insurance Plan and to prevent abuses that have not been overcome by the administrative action already taken.

Mr. Speaker, it is precisely in the administrative measures and waiting periods that the abuses exist. There will be abuses as long as man will be considered to be at the service of computers and not computers at the service of man.

Mr. Speaker, people who have difficulty understanding or being understood by unemployment insurance officials

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have to leave Drummondville and drive 50 miles to go to the Sherbrooke office. When you are without a salary or benefits because the computer does not understand you, you cannot afford to make such trips.

This is why I would like to invite the hon. Minister of Labour (Mr. Munro) to consider the possibility of opening an office in Drummondville to examine in that location the cases of people having difficulties. As Drummondville has a population of 45,000, I think this request is quite justified, especially in view of the large number of unemployed people in this town and the surrounding area.

This decentralization would get the Unemployment Insurance Commission nearer its first objective of helping the jobless and would put an end at the same time to a great deal of criticism about this service which is no longer worthy of the name.

When a man has stopped receiving the benefits to which he is entitled, he applies for welfare assistance and has to submit to a whole series of inquiries, indiscretions and intimidations because of rules and instructions which leave no latitude to the officers who deal with the poor, even though for many years we had two ministers in the constituency. It will be evident that the office which I have taken over is not an easy one to fulfill.

Mr. Speaker, people come to see me each week at my office to ask for help because they do not succeed in gaining satisfaction during various interviews they have with social welfare officials. Yet, there is a member of the National Assembly in the constituency, he is even a minister, but since he does not do anything, I try to deal with these cases. I am saying this, Mr. Speaker, to urge the federal Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Lalonde) to closely control the situation in order to impose stricter conditions to his provincial counterpart if need be so that proper consideration will be given to the human being.

Presently in Quebec, the pride of the people is being annihilated by restrictive socializing measures which suppress all freedom of action and speech and could deprive him of an income that he cannot do without.

This phenomenon reaches even the farmers who have had a difficult year in 1972. Everyone knows that the rains of last summer destroyed the crops and caused huge losses to the farmers of the province. The farmers in the Drummond riding were not spared and many were so discouraged that they even thought of selling their property. It is at this point that they understood with an even greater shock that the federal government and the Department of Agriculture is very little concerned about them.

The Speech from the Throne advocates a fair relationship of prices of feed grain to livestock feeders in various regions of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I maintain that before we speak of a fair relationship of prices of feed grain used by western and eastern feeders, we should begin by paying the meager amount of \$400 to those who have been waiting for it since last summer.

I protest against this situation. It is shocking to see that farmers are up against rain in the summer and red tape in the winter.