

Unemployment

thing I am sure of. I do not think anything would please the Liberal party more at the present time than to unload this miserable mess on the Tory party, as they did once before.

The only thing the unemployed in this country can be really thankful for is that the Tory party is not in a position to gain power in this country at this time. When I mention jobs I have in mind the jobs which the Tory party provided for the unemployed back in the early thirties. At that time we saw railroads being built with picks and shovels and wheelbarrows, and in cities like Saskatoon we saw men working at the city dump flattening out and baling tin cans. We do not want jobs of that kind provided.

Mr. Knight: At \$5 per month.

Mr. Bryson: The kind of jobs that must be found are those which will build up assets in this country, assets which in themselves will be wealth-creating and because of that fact job-creating. The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) and hon. members of this group have enumerated a long list of projects that would come under the category I have just mentioned. It is not my intention to go over the ground they covered so ably and so well, but I would suggest that one project which would fall within the category I have mentioned would be a publicly-built oil and gas line, one that would become a public utility. I am not suggesting that the actual construction, whether under private enterprise or under government enterprise, would employ any more men, but I do submit that the economic results that would accrue to this country in the future would be considerable.

I think the South Saskatchewan dam would be such a project. I was surprised the other day when I heard the hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker) ask what the province of Saskatchewan had done toward relieving unemployment.

It is not my intention, Mr. Speaker, to trespass on the ruling you gave the other day in this connection, but I would like to say that the hon. member for Prince Albert knows as well as I do what is being done in the province of Saskatchewan to combat unemployment. He knows as well as I do that we have undertaken the greatest public investment program in the history of the province. So far as the South Saskatchewan river dam is concerned, we have advanced from the point where this government promised to build this dam in its entirety. We have come from that position and now we have agreed to pay \$33 million for the complete power installation, and in addition

[Mr. Bryson.]

we have agreed to pay some \$20 million for the construction of the dam itself.

It is all very well to talk about a public investment program when the dominion and the provinces co-operate to that end, but let us make no irresponsible statements about any province in western Canada being able to undertake on its own a program of public investment. For example, of the \$65 million the province of Saskatchewan has agreed to spend on the South Saskatchewan river dam, 75 per cent would be spent for steel, cement, pipes and other necessary material. Therefore some \$48 or \$49 million of the total \$65 million would go out of the province of Saskatchewan to the eastern provinces where those materials are manufactured, and only 25 per cent would remain in the province. Let no one say that by the expenditure of large sums of money any province, especially those in western Canada, can combat unemployment itself.

I am not suggesting that the fact this money accrues to eastern Canada is undesirable. I say it is good, provided that the federal government and the provinces co-operate in a public investment program. We in the province of Saskatchewan are quite prepared to do our share in that regard.

There is a tremendous need for development in our north country. The Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources (Mr. Lesage) is loud in his praise of the development that can and must take place in relation to railways and highways. He speaks of the tremendous development that is possible in that absolutely fabulous land. Its possibilities in providing work cannot even be estimated, to say nothing of the economic advantages to the welfare of the Canadian people that will accrue as a result of that development.

I suggest one other project which should be undertaken to assist tremendously in the battle against unemployment. I refer to a national housing program. I believe no agency other than this government can hope to cope with the important need for a national housing program.

I think a housing program of this type has many aspects. One aspect we have failed to recognize, for which this government must accept some moral responsibility, is that we have in our cities a serious juvenile delinquency problem. Certainly authorities are in agreement that slum conditions are the greatest contributing factor to this serious problem of juvenile delinquency. They are quick to point out that many thousands of children who are exposed to slum conditions, and the abject poverty which is associated with slums is the greatest contributing factor to that delinquency. Our habits only