

Supply—Labour

country today is the fact that we have young people growing up all the time and coming into the labour field. Unfortunately, most of them are ill-equipped to take their places in the ever increasing technical society that we are living in. We have the problem of automation, which hon. members have mentioned, where machines are more and more taking the place of former employees. I would suggest that the only possible answer we have to automation is to embark on a program, as advocated by numerous hon. members, of vocational training. There is no other way that we can hope to cope with this particular problem.

Last, but certainly far from least, is the problem of shut-downs in our society. We have had two clear illustrations of that in this country very recently. I am referring to the shut-down of the Avro plant in Toronto, which threw 13,000 people on the street, and the one we are faced with today in Elliot Lake and Bancroft and the dislocations on Cape Breton island and Vancouver island; in fact, from coast to coast, where employees, through no fault of their own, find that the type of work they are trained for and have done all their lives is no longer available, and they become a glut on the labour market.

Whose responsibility is this, Mr. Chairman? There is a verse in the "Blasted Pine" which I think is very applicable. It deals with employment, and it is taken from "A hymn to the glory of free enterprise". This is the way it goes:

At periods when free enterprise may not provide employment
 We dread the thought of hungry men—it lessens our enjoyment;
 The government must then step in, with this consideration:
 That any public works proposed do not increase taxation.
 Depressions, after all, my friends, much as we may deplore them,
 Are acts of God; who ever heard of blaming business for them?

The chorus goes like this:

Then hail we now free enterprise,
 Extol and give it praise!
 Of course, when profits shrink in size,
 To lay men off is only wise;
 We dearly love free enterprise—
 But only when it pays.

Certainly business does not accept any responsibility and in the past governments have not accepted their responsibility. Both business and government in this country have felt it is the responsibility of each and every workman to provide for himself. Now, if businessmen, with the wealth at their command and if government with all the resources at its command, cannot meet the situation, how in heaven's name can they expect the

[Mr. Martin (Timmins).]

individual workman, so loaded down with the responsibility of a family, to meet the situation by himself?

We have seen far too many examples in the past, and even today, of the Liberals blaming the Tories for the situation, and the Tories blaming the Liberals for the situation. They both seem to feel the only responsibility they have is to lay the blame on the other one. I do not see how that is going to help any one. I do not think it matters much which one is to blame. As far as I am concerned, they are equally to blame. You cannot blame one without blaming the other. The situation we are faced with today is only a repetition of what we were faced with when the Liberals were in office, and if the Liberals were in power today they would be faced with exactly the same situation; there would not be one bit of difference.

I recall when the former member for Nanaimo, Mr. Colin Cameron, was speaking in the house one day and referred to a situation similar to this. He said it reminded him of two little naughty boys standing in front of a broken window, each one blaming the other for breaking the window when all the time they knew they were both to blame.

I am not one who tries to maintain that he has all the points or that he has all the concern for the unemployed. There are hon. members on both the Liberal and the Conservative side who have just as much concern as I have personally for this situation. I think the Minister of Labour is one of them. I think the Minister of Labour is ready and willing to do everything within the limits of our society today to improve the situation with which he is faced. I may not be quoting his words, but he has indicated to the house that there is nothing more he can do than has been done.

But I think that this debate has shown one thing, that neither the Conservatives of today nor the Liberals of yesterday have the answer to this problem. I think the sole reason neither one has the answer is the society to which they both subscribe so slavishly. Let us put the blame where the blame belongs, not on the present minister and government, not on the former minister and government but on the society to which both subscribe and by which they are both chained.

It is fine to point your finger at faults, Mr. Chairman, but what can we do about the situation? I suggest that the first thing for the government to do is to come forward honestly and admit that this is not seasonal unemployment, that it is not a temporary thing. It is something we have had for a long time and if something new is not done