

*The Address—Mr. MacEachen*

In this connection, I might add, the Gill committee recommended a strengthening of the unemployment insurance branch as well as of the national employment service. The committee recognized the complexity of unemployment insurance operations, and the commission had been hampered by lack of a staff establishment adequate in terms of both numbers and level of training and skill.

The Department of Labour and the national employment service have historically had a common interest and responsibility for the development and implementation of manpower and labour market programs. The employment service co-ordination act of 1919 was, in fact, administered by the Department of Labour until the unemployment insurance commission began operation in 1941. Since then an active working relationship has been maintained in such areas as labour mobility, manpower utilization and adjustment, training, vocational rehabilitation, winter employment and other employment programs.

The merging of the national employment service with the Department of Labour will result in a stronger and more positive approach being made to the solution of manpower problems in Canada. Since the statement made in the house last June, I have continued to stress the importance of undertaking co-ordinated and well-balanced programs in the field of manpower rather than a series of disconnected and separate efforts. The development and administration of manpower policy through a single agency which the transfer of the national employment service will make possible is essential to the meeting of this objective. A close link will, of course, continue to be maintained with the administration of unemployment insurance benefits to ensure that referrals to suitable employment are made to benefit recipients.

I might add that the national employment committee which has served in an advisory capacity to the unemployment insurance commission has unanimously recommended the implementation of this particular recommendation of the Gill committee. Employer, union and other national associations in Canada have also endorsed the desirability of the transfer.

To effect the transfer, the government has established a committee composed of the head of the bureau of government organization, George Davidson; the deputy minister of labour, George Haythorne, and the chief commissioner of the unemployment insurance commission, Laval Fortier. In making this transfer steps will be taken to protect the position of those who will be remaining on the staff of the unemployment insurance

commission, those who will transfer with the national employment service and those now on the staff of the Department of Labour. Individual staff members can be assured that every effort will be made to deal with their situations as fairly as possible, taking into consideration the needs of each respective agency and local circumstances.

Speaking, I know, on behalf of the President of the Privy Council as well as myself, I can assure the house that an effort will be made to effect the transfer expeditiously. The legal and other necessary steps to effect this change are now under study and will be taken as soon as possible. I would also like to state that the transfer will be made in such a way as to create no interruption of service to the public, either with respect to the work of the employment service or with respect to the work of the unemployment insurance commission.

In conclusion I should like to thank hon. members of the house for allowing me to give them this review of some of the activities and changed policies of the Department of Labour.

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Paul Martineau (Pontiac-Temisca-tingue):** Mr. Speaker, in the course of this debate, we shall be called upon to settle a matter of the utmost gravity, one which raises the question of confidence in the government. In other words, what the hon. members shall have to decide by their votes is whether the government has really faced up to its responsibilities, and if it is to be allowed to survive and control the destinies of this country.

True, the amendment put forth is quite specific and concerns but one measure, since it deals with the tax on building materials. But beyond that specific question there are all those having to do with the life of the government.

Hon. members must ask themselves whether the government has kept its promises, whether it has carried out or is carrying out its program, whether its objectives are in accordance with the people's aspirations; hon. members must also say whether the government is able to carry out its objectives and finally whether its outlook is similar to that of the Canadian people.

Mr. Speaker, it is not enough to say that the government must be given a certain time in order to carry out its program. As you make your bed so you must lie on it. It was the government which came up with that famous program—to which I shall refer in a few minutes—that 60 days program; it set itself a deadline for its implementation.