

*Proceedings on Adjournment Motion*

Let us help the financing of new industries and guarantee employment to Canadians. That is what they want first. Then we can take the necessary time to talk about the government's flags.

When Mr. Firestone said that the government paid more attention to the 300,000 unemployed than to the 3,800,000 people living in constant poverty he was right, since most of the applications for jobs which were sent to me came from that group of 3,800,000 people, and the government does nothing for them, because they are not unemployed registered under the act.

I am not so sure that the government is taking care of the 300,000 registered unemployed, because I read recently in an article on this subject that it seems as though this number is quite normal, considering the population of the country.

I think it is high time that the minister should take action in this regard. I would be happy indeed if he would tell the house, tonight, what he intends to do to help the unemployed who receive no assistance, in order to put an end to this shameful unemployment in our country which is supposed to be so wealthy.

The first freedom of every citizen, in my view, should be the right to work, and the state should promote this freedom of our citizens in making available to them the opportunity of earning a certain income.

[Text]

**Mr. J. A. Byrne (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, the objectives of the hon. member for Quebec West (Mr. Plourde) are certainly of the highest order. I can assure him they are the objectives of the government, and that the government has not lost interest in or concern for those who are unemployed and liv-

ing in the circumstances described by the hon. member.

One of the best ways we could assure that our program to help these people can be placed in effect is to get a little more co-operation in the house in order to implement the program. Last June the minister announced a ten point program of manpower development, and the hon. member cannot ignore the fact that the federal government pays 50 per cent of the assistance, that is, in addition to the unemployment insurance, when the unemployment insurance runs out, to an employee or head of a household entitled to unemployment assistance.

The hon. member's question of June 2 indicated that this person was deprived of certain assistance. I think perhaps that is an error. Social assistance is not terminal unless of course it has been determined by a welfare officer that a person is simply not entitled to social assistance by virtue of the fact that he may not be spending it in the manner for which it was intended. If a person loses the right to social assistance, this is a matter for the welfare officers of the municipalities and the provinces.

We have the Unemployment Assistance Act and in addition we provide pensions to those who are handicapped by one reason or another, and who are unable to earn a living. Then again we have the training and retraining program. We have endeavoured to bring in legislation that would provide an extension of family allowances to young people who wish to continue their studies. We will return individuals to school, even those who have families, and I am sure the hon. member cannot say that the government is not doing as much as it can to alleviate the circumstances of these people.

Motion agreed to and the house adjourned at 10.26 p.m.