

Montreal. I appeal to all hon. members from Quebec to take a look at this increase of 26,000 unemployed they have now in their province. All the government members from Quebec should consider the situation and I would be only too glad to co-operate the best I can. The province of Quebec is entitled to be adequately represented and the federal members should do everything in their power to compel the party in power to give special consideration to their province.

It has often been said that the situation of Quebec is different, but it is hard to have it recognized in practice. Unemployment, however, is acknowledged as a special problem. In my opinion, the federal members from Quebec have every right to tackle this very serious matter.

Yesterday, for instance, I was listening to the Minister of Labour (Mr. Mackasey) when he said that were the opportunity given to him of investing a million dollars in Quebec, he would be glad to do so, since the last elections have proved beyond any doubt that the overwhelming majority of the French and English-speaking people of the province of Quebec wanted to stay in Confederation.

I was very glad to hear the Minister of Labour express that view. However, we should co-operate through a better representation and by passing laws which will affect not only the province of Quebec but Canada as a whole. Better legislative measures should be adopted in order to satisfy a province which surely has needs just like every other one.

Mr. Speaker, allow me, in closing, to recall the words—with which I fully agree—of the Leader of the Opposition when he said that the motion before us was meant to prove to the government members that we also recognize the difficulties, that our interventions were designed to solve a situation which cannot be allowed to last.

This proposal asks the government, on behalf of the Canadian people, to adopt legislative measures which will guarantee the country the rates of growth required to give labour the necessary employment in the future and to reduce the unduly high rate of unemployment.

This was the object of the motion moved yesterday by the Leader of the Opposition, and as far as I am concerned I support it. To the Minister of Labour who said: "We are determined to act," I say we are ready to act, to do more and to do better.

*Alleged Failure to Reduce Unemployment*

• (5:00 p.m.)

[English]

**Mr. Allen B. Sulatycky (Rocky Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be able to take part in this debate on economic matters. It has been a good debate up to this point. Several hon. members have attempted to paint a black picture of the economy of Canada. I take exception to many of their comments along this line.

I agree wholeheartedly with the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis) that we cannot treat unemployment callously; we cannot talk of unemployment simply in terms of figures. I agree that there is a human element involved. I also agree with the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) and with the hon. member for Battle River (Mr. Downey) that there are serious problems affecting western agriculture. I am equally in agreement with what is said by hon. members from the Atlantic provinces when they outline in the house the serious difficulties faced by the people in that part of the country. I can agree also with the point of view expressed by hon. members from Quebec, though I am in accord, too, with what was said by the Minister of Labour (Mr. Mackasey) in his sound analysis yesterday of the situation in that province.

The Leader of the Opposition spoke of the economic problems of Canada and of rural development practically in the same breath. I am somewhat concerned that more and more members should be speaking increasingly of rural development in terms almost synonymous with mass government welfare assistance. The Leader of the Opposition also talked about unemployment in the west and related it to the difficulties in agriculture. Perhaps the Leader of the Opposition was revealing his ignorance of the west while at the same time seeking excessive consideration for that part of the country from which he comes. I hope this is not the case but the facts point to this conclusion.

The western part of Canada is not dependent simply upon agriculture although in most parts of that region agriculture is the major element in the economy. Let me draw attention to a few facts to set the record straight. The rate of unemployment on the prairies on December 14, according to the latest available figures, was 3.4 per cent. This was second only to Ontario. In Alberta, I am pleased to say, unemployment was the lowest in Canada at 2.9 per cent. Perhaps some of the hon.