

*Employment Support Bill*

Right now, today, is the time for the government to state its position on unemployment. We want to know what its projections are. I know that many studies have been made. The Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. Lang) is not in the House, but I know that he has asked his economists to arrive at projections for unemployment in the coming year and many economists in his department have concluded that quite apart from the impact of the American surcharge we are likely to have one million Canadians prowling round the streets this winter without a damned thing to do.

Why doesn't the Prime Minister stand up and tell the Canadian people what his employment goals are for the winter of 1971? Is he not willing to meet with officials of the various provinces and municipalities to assess the economic burdens that will fall on Canadians this winter and next spring? I would like to see the Prime Minister act now.

We all remember the statement of last December 3 and what happened before the Minister of Finance, Bungling Ben, finally decided that the government was going to make a low-interest loans program available to the provinces to fight unemployment. The Secretary of State (Mr. Pelletier) delayed until March before announcing the Opportunities for Youth program and asking young Canadians to offer suggestions with respect to it. I repeat that the time is now when a major statement should be made by the government on its plans to fight unemployment this winter.

I wish to conclude, Mr. Speaker, with one other point which will require half an hour to develop but to which I cannot devote that much time. On Monday next we will begin discussing the tax reforms that are going to take place in Canada. Almost since the first day that we came into this Parliament in 1968 we began to work on reform of the federal tax system. I believe the time has come when we must make a fundamental reassessment of our approach to our resource industries.

This afternoon I listened to the speech of the hon. member for Ottawa West. I do not know if he has a degree in economics, but his speech sounded as though it were written by an economist because it contained a lot of narrow economic jargon, in fact a lot of nonsense, trying to explain that our resources belong to us, that we can sell them now and to hell with tomorrow.

Nobody is suggesting that we should stop exporting iron ore from the Northwest Territories or oil from Alberta, but a much more pointed effort must be made to help the companies involved undertake more processing in Canada and thus provide more employment here. I repeat that the time has come for us to make a fundamental reassessment of our approach to our resource industries. We cannot do that through the proposed tax measures. This is a point I shall not develop further today but I give notice of my intention to do so at a later date.

In conclusion, I wonder why members of the Liberal party have spent so much time taking part in this debate although they have tried to give the impression that they wanted the bill passed in a matter of hours. I wish to tell

them that the issue has not yet come to an end and in the coming weeks the government will have to answer to members of this House and will have to issue a statement on its attitude toward the serious unemployment situation facing Canadians. It is to be hoped that during the Prime Minister's brief stay in Canada we will obtain some reaction from him.

**Mr. Rod Thomson (Battleford-Kindersley):** Mr. Speaker, since I believe I am the last to speak in this debate, I wish to say I have not prepared a long speech. Some may say that is a good thing. But I do wish to make a few comments. The hon. member for Duvernay (Mr. Kierans), yesterday, and the hon. member for York East (Mr. Otto), today, both made fine summations of the problems facing the nation. As I listened to the opinions of the hon. member for Duvernay they seemed to be those of an economics professor, and I do not think it is sufficient to look at these problems purely in the abstract.

That hon. member is also a politician, and if he is going to make suggestions on solutions for Canada's problems he should make political suggestions, practical suggestions. I wish to illustrate my point. Recently I visited the Yukon with the northern affairs committee which held hearings on a Yukon mining bill. We heard presentations from people in the mining industry. If we encourage foreign or Canadian capital to develop a mine or other primary industry, I do not think it is right for us to say later, "Now that you are established we are going to restrict your activities." If we say this we have a duty to provide alternative employment or business activity in the affected area. Some of the suggestions made by the hon. member for Duvernay overlooked that factor.

• (3:30 p.m.)

Mining is the only large-scale source of employment in the Yukon and if we move to restrict that industry we must offer the people there alternative employment. My suggestion is that we establish secondary industry there, that we build a refinery or smelter to process the ore in the area and say, as the Ontario government would say, "If you are going to mine in the Yukon you are going to refine in the Yukon." When you allow or encourage a vested interest to develop in connection with any industry, in this case mining, and then do away with it or restrict it in any way, you must offer an effective alternative solution. In my opinion the hon. member for Gander-Twillingate (Mr. Lundrigan) did not do that.

Let me use another illustration. In Calgary, or in Alberta generally there are Canadians with a vested interest in the export of our natural gas to the United States and there are Canadian politicians from Calgary who actively support such export. What happens, Mr. Speaker, when we export gas at cheap rates to the Americans? We ship our petrochemicals at rates which make it possible for the United States to produce commodities with which we in this country cannot compete. Let me illustrate my point this way. When we make ammonia nitrate in Calgary or when we make fertilizers like that, we cannot compete with the fertilizer made from natural gas which is shipped to Chicago.

[Mr. Lundrigan.]