

Unemployment in Maritimes

are large, and if they wish to expand they can very well use their excess profits tax which was refunded to them. That is why it was refunded. At least that was the reason given for refunding it.

An hon. MEMBER: When was it refunded?

Mr. GILLIS: They have got it all back by this time.

The purpose of the industrial development bank was stated at its inception to be to give assistance to a person or group of people who had some capital and could meet the regulations for the purpose of developing secondary industries in the province where it was not profitable for Canada Packers and other large firms to go.

Second, I recommend that the government should give consideration to extending the out-of-work benefits to service personnel until such time as they are able to secure employment. We owe them at least that much.

Third, I recommend that the government give consideration to extending unemployment insurance to care for people who are unemployed and seeking employment and are able to work until such time as employment can be found for them.

I am going to suggest to the Minister of Finance that he reconsider the decision made by his department and relayed by himself to the Canadian Legion of New Glasgow and that a permit be granted to Topper Industries Limited to can beans for sale, so that they may be able to put back to work sixty people who are now out of work because Topper Industries Limited cannot get a permit.

I am also going to recommend that Maclean Brothers, who have made an investment in a small plant at Sydney, Nova Scotia, be granted a molasses quota, so that they can put that plant in operation. I also recommend that the ice-cream plant at Truro—I am not going to give names—should be given a sugar quota, so that they may put their \$35,000 investment in that little plant to work.

If these things were done it would be an indication to these communities that the federal government was at least interested in them to the point of permitting them to do something for themselves.

Fourth, I suggest to the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Fournier) that he put an appropriation in the supplementary estimates this session to repair that old pier at New Victoria on Cape Breton island, so that the fish processing and bait freezing plant can get into operation and service the fishermen on that thirty-five mile coast.

[Mr. Gillis.]

It was not easy for me tonight, Mr. Speaker, to hinder my very good friend the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Martin) from going on with his estimates, but these matters I have raised are urgent. They mean bread and butter to the people I represent in this house. I hope that the ministers who are away on other duties tonight will read my remarks, pay attention to them and endeavour to alleviate the sore spots that I have enumerated tonight.

Mr. A. J. BROOKS (Royal): Mr. Speaker, the problem which the hon. member for Cape Breton South (Mr. Gillis) has brought before the house tonight is not a new one. It has been discussed in this house many times during the present session. As he stated, it is as old as confederation, at least eighty years old anyway. The solutions which my hon. friend has suggested are only temporary. He recommended that a few small factories in Nova Scotia be granted certain quotas of molasses and sugar and so forth, and as I sat here I could not avoid realizing that only about seven or eight hundred people out of about 35,000 seeking work could find employment through the solutions he suggested. It is a big problem and one with which this House of Commons must deal at some time.

We in the maritime provinces feel that we have not received proper treatment for a great many years. The unemployment we are suffering today is the accumulated result of federal policies of the past, and more particularly the policies which this government followed during the last war. We in the maritime provinces situated near the coast were in a favoured position during the war for the supplying of munitions for overseas, and we thought factories would be established in those provinces to produce the munitions for our armies overseas. But that did not happen. My own province of New Brunswick received less than one-half of one per cent of the munitions production in all Canada, although we have a population of nearly 500,000 as compared with 12,000,000 for the whole dominion. So what we are experiencing today is mainly the result of the neglect we have received in the past.

There is not much unemployment in the province of Quebec and very little in Ontario, for the simple reason that the large factories established there with the assistance of the government for the production of munitions during the war are today producing civilian goods. Had the same policy been adopted in our maritime provinces, we would not be in the position we are in today. The hon. member for Cape Breton South (Mr. Gillis) recom-