

after and also to ensure that too much secrecy is not being imposed.

I have often wondered about the value of these "late show" debates, but this is a perfect example of their value because government officials and civil servants become sensitive to public opinion, and this is a form of protection. Officials and civil servants must be frank with one another but not overcautious—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger):** Order, please.

MANPOWER—AVAILABILITY OF JOBS IN THOMPSON AND SUDBURY

**Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North):** On November 18 I asked the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) on what information he based the statement he had made a day or so earlier in which he said that while there was large-scale unemployment, every person who really wanted a job could find one. He used as an illustration of this claim the fact that supposedly jobs were available for miners in Thompson, Manitoba, and Sudbury, Ontario, when in fact in Thompson, Sudbury and at Port Colbourne some weeks earlier the International Nickel Company had begun a series of lay-offs.

• (10:10 p.m.)

I was appalled by that flippant remark of the Prime Minister, not just because it was flippant in relation to a very serious problem but because I thought that with his large and supposedly efficient staff, much greater in size than that of any other Prime Minister in Canadian history, he would have been better briefed. He simply did not have the facts. As I say, lay-offs had begun at Sudbury and at Thompson weeks before the Prime Minister made his remark.

The situation with regard to unemployment is serious. In October, 1971, the last month for which we have figures, there were 447,000 people unemployed. The seasonally adjusted rate for unemployment was 6.7 per cent, the highest October rate in more than ten years. For more than 18 months the percentage of unemployment on a seasonally adjusted basis has been over 6 per cent, and in September we had the almost unprecedented rate of 7.1 per cent.

One would think that if there were a large number of vacancies our Canada Manpower centres would know about them. After all, Mr. Speaker, we have been pouring increasingly large amounts of money, hundreds of millions of dollars, into the various programs of the Canada Manpower centres. According to the *Financial Times* News Service in November over 480,000 people who were looking for work were registered with Canada Manpower centres in the major cities of Canada and the number of job vacancies which the Canada Manpower centres had on record was just 48,000. In other words, the number of people looking for work was ten times as many as the number of jobs available for them.

Yesterday the Economic Council of Canada issued a report which ought to make even the Prime Minister, who has been so unconcerned about unemployment, worry a little. It pointed out that we face the formidable job of finding 1,400,000 new jobs in the next five years, almost

twice as many as we have been able to find in the last few years.

The report points out that if we are to reduce the percentage of unemployment to 3.8 per cent, which is not a figure picked out of the air because it was the average rate of unemployment in the last three years of the Pearson government, we will have to increase the number of new jobs at a rate of about 3½ per cent per year. But, Mr. Speaker, we have not done better than increase that number by about 2.2 per cent per year. So we have a tremendous task before us. The government began that task late.

Some weeks ago the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson) announced a new program. I suppose one could say that late conversion is better than no conversion at all. I close by saying that the unemployment problem will not be solved and our thinking about the problem will not be helped by the kind of flippant witticisms to which the Prime Minister so frequently subjects the country.

**Mr. Barnett J. Danson (Parliamentary Secretary to Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, concerning the recently reported lay-offs at the International Nickel Company of Canada Limited, the situation arose because of the sharp decline in world markets for nickel. As a consequence, the company laid off some 250 salaried workers at Sudbury, Thompson, and at head office in Toronto. Some 445 hourly personnel were laid off at the company's refinery in Port Colborne, Ontario. In addition, the company suspended the hiring of miners and smelter workers at its Sudbury and Thompson operations. It was indicated that no significant lay-offs of production workers would occur at either of these sites due to the fact that normally high attrition rates due to quitting, retirements and other personal reasons would not necessitate a lay-off of personnel. Prior to the suspension of hiring of miners and smelter workers the company recruited several hundred workers every month during 1970 and up to late October, 1971, for its Sudbury and Thompson operations. This happened quite recently.

Concerning the job vacancies in metal mines generally, the number of job vacancies registered with Canada Manpower centres for 1971, up to the end of October, averaged 1,655 per month. To fill these vacancies an average of 2,215 referrals per month were made by Canada Manpower centres during the period concerned. Based on periodic reviews and analyses of hirings and separations information that is available for certain sectors of the mining industry, it is apparent that some mine operators experience a fairly heavy turnover of workers. This accounts for a considerable number of the job vacancies that arise in the industry every month.

For some mine operators the availability of adequate numbers of qualified workers presents difficulty. As a consequence, representations are made by these mine operators to promote and publicize the industry in order to attract workers to it. In addition, requests have been made by mining companies that a recruitment program for foreign workers should be implemented by the government to alleviate problems encountered in obtaining adequate numbers of qualified workers. In view of the general availability of workers in Canada, the response of the Department of Manpower and Immigration to these