

know we will have new mechanisms to with which deliver the food supplies.

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EMPLOYMENT

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. Over the past two years, 14,000 jobs were lost in 63 Montreal businesses. The rate of unemployment has now reached 11.7 per cent in Montreal, the highest municipal rate in Canada. Given this, is the minister prepared to meet Quebec government officials and the Mayor of Montreal to determine an action plan to create full time and indeterminate jobs? Is she willing to take these steps now?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, many steps were taken in Montreal, as in the rest of the country.

• (1440)

[English]

I would like to mention one industry in Montreal in particular which is doing very well and that is the pharmaceutical industry. Thanks to the legislation of this government, which the hon. member said was going to lose jobs, it has created hundreds of jobs in Montreal, including hundreds of research jobs in Montreal.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Mr. Speaker, that answer will not satisfy the unemployed in Montreal, the rate of which is higher than any other city in Canada, including St. John's, Newfoundland.

Next month, 1,100 workers at Pratt & Whitney in Longueuil will lose their jobs. They do not need training. They want jobs.

What is the minister going to do for these workers? They do not want to hear rhetoric, they want some action.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, training and jobs go together. That is why the pharmaceutical industry is such a good example. It requires skilled jobs. The jobs are

created and we have the programs to train people to take those jobs. We cannot have one without the other.

We have in this country, not only a need for jobs, but we have a need for skills. We have a mismatch between those jobs that are available, and the skills available. Clearly, the hon. members on the other side, who have held up our capacity to do this for so long, do not want to listen because they just keep talking.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

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[Translation]

POVERTY

Mrs. Albina Guarnieri (Mississauga East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. The National Council of Welfare, which is an advisory body to the minister, tells us that the vast majority of the 1.9 million Canadians who rely on welfare are children, disabled people and single-parent families with incomes up to 50 percent less than the poverty line. During that time, the government refuses to pay its fair share of the costs of welfare, especially in the province with the most new cases.

I would ask the minister to tell the victims of this government's economic mismanagement why it has given up on them.

[English]

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member were being at all fair and accurate, she would not use terminology such as abandoning people.

This year alone, some \$5.8 billion will be transferred to the provinces under the Canada Assistance Plan. The hon. member will also be aware of the fact that since the Liberal government was turned out of office, a significant number of Canadians, almost 1 million, have risen above the low-income cut-offs and about one-third of those are Canadian children. In a number of important areas, this government has taken initiatives in order to improve employment opportunities for Canadians and improve social benefits for Canadians.