

The Canadian Economy

products, an income, and social security for every Canadian. I am sure that from then on we shall have full employment in Canada, industrialists will not be so much afraid of undertaking capital expenditures and new ventures in Canada. Then, the whole population will be able to say: "At last, we are given an economic formula that provides us with security and personal freedom".

[English]

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson), in opening the discussion tonight and in indicating the measures which were being taken, also reviewed the signs of strength in the economy such as the constant improvement in the gross national product to levels which are very impressive indeed. He also could have referred to the figures of exports, to which the previous speaker referred. Both of these improvements indicate the basic, underlying strength of the Canadian economy and led us on a number of occasions to indicate to all sectors of the economy that the time was ripe for growing and moving ahead in this country.

The figures in growth of employment have also shown significant increases. Hon. gentlemen opposite make some point of the fact that unemployment figures have increased, and will not accept the logic that we have not only what we all very well knew, which is a very rapidly increasing working age population, but that in addition we have what was not so expected or so known, increases in participation rates.

The figures, again, this month which show signs of high unemployment in seasonally adjusted terms also indicate the growth, on a year to year basis, from a year ago of 202,000 new jobs. The significant figures to compare are those which indicate that the working age population in that year grew at a rate of 2.4 per cent while employment grew at a rate of 2.5 per cent, so that employment was growing at a faster rate than the growth of population but not fast enough to take care of the increased participation in the labour force. It is this fact which has led, above all, to the need for special programs at this time.

We of course can take some consolation in the signs of strength in the economy shown by the figures of gross national product and exports and growth in jobs, but we are very concerned as a government and as individuals about any Canadian who is seeking work and cannot in fact find it. For that reason we have before us tonight programs which are designed to create jobs immediately.

The programs are of three basic types. There are the longer term capital projects which will create, of course, fewer direct jobs than other expenditures might in the short-run but which will be of longer term duration and will provide jobs over a longer period of time. These will also, of course, provide significant numbers of indirect jobs over the whole period of the construction. This applies equally to the accelerated CMHC expenditures, the direct expenditures by the government on capital works and the capital programs which will be encouraged by loans to municipalities and provinces across the country.

In this year's program for loans to municipalities for capital works the additional feature has been added of a forgiveness for the jobs created and applied in the

immediate short-term period. This will have the effect of channelling this money more into those parts of available capital projects which are in fact easiest to mount and most productive of jobs even in a direct sense. But, of course, the major portion of the expenditures indicated tonight is not of a capital nature but directed specifically to more job-intensive areas. This is true of the direct federal expenditures. It is also true of the extremely important local initiative programs which will allow municipalities and municipal organizations and other responsible organizations across this country with work incentive programs for community betterment to mount those programs quickly and with the direct result of significant job increases in Canada in the immediate period. These programs under local initiatives will be designed to produce the best possible result in terms of the job accomplished, as well as putting to work the greatest possible number of people.

• (9:40 p.m.)

Mr. Stanfield: Who is the consultant, somebody in the States?

Mr. Lang: The criteria for specific application of this program will be available through Manpower centres before long. The centres will be fully involved in the preparation of applications. I want to emphasize again that under this program the emphasis will be upon meritorious projects which produce a good result, as well as upon the labour intensive projects.

Mr. Horner: If you had all this money, why did you have to try to steal \$60 million from the farmers?

Mr. Lang: The local initiative programs really invite persons from one end of the country to the other in municipalities and other responsible organizations to apply their vast ingenuity in joining in the solving of the job creation problem and in producing the best possible result.

It is perhaps worthy of note that when the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis), the leader of the New Democratic Party, was speaking he seemed to fail to notice this part of the program under which \$100 million invites initiative by individuals and groups and municipalities from one end of the country to the other.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, the third type of expenditure which is involved in the program announced tonight is the availability of funds for training programs. These training programs have been designed from their inception to improve the basic skill or the developed skill of members of the work force, to put them in a better position to perform the new and challenging jobs which are continually being created in this country and which require additional skills. It is worthy of note that at times, whatever the particular unemployment figures may be, there are significant shortages of persons with particular skills for jobs which are available. The training programs are designed to remedy this problem by helping to fit available manpower for the jobs waiting for them. The traditional training programs as they have existed for a