

### Oral Questions

**Mr. Lee Richardson (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I can assure you that the minister is continuing to receive reports and recommendations to enhance transportation safety in Canada.

In addition to the report and as Mr. Justice Moshansky has said: "I think it is safe to fly in Canada. I think we have one of the safest transportation systems in the world".

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### TRAINING PROGRAMS

**Mr. Maurizio Bevilacqua (York North):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration.

In an article which appeared in *The Toronto Star* on March 28 the minister clearly concedes that his government has not worked hard enough in the area of training. I agree with the minister's admission of his government's failure.

He stated that Canada should be training one million workers a year. Last year it only trained 350,000. The minister clearly accepts that the onus for restructuring the job market is the responsibility of the government. I congratulate the minister for accepting the blame. What is he going to do about?

**Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, what an *entrée* by the hon. member. I guess if he cannot find arguments against the strategy of the government on adjustment and restructuring he might find solace in that article. But perhaps he should go on reading it.

I know that the Liberal Party opposed this vehemently, both here and in the Senate, but when we tried to activate these passive funds under UI to enable unemployed Canadians to get better skills they were opposed to it. This is Bill C-21. This is the Labour Force Development Strategy.

Last year we trained 350,000 people. This year \$1.8 billion will be spent on training unemployed Canadians and close to 650,000 Canadians will benefit from training.

Part of the article also tells about partnerships. That is why we are working with the private sector, labour and business, and provincial governments so that every one

in Canada will put more resources toward training people which is the key to success in a competitive world.

**Mr. Maurizio Bevilacqua (York North):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is for the same minister.

The minister with his answer has admitted that his government has failed Canadians in the area of training. Unfortunately his response is inadequate.

First the government is going to study Canada's 28 economic sectors to identify gaps in training. Then it is going to bring together experts to develop a national training program, but so far only two sectors have been studied.

I ask the minister why it has taken him so long to realize that training is so vital to the future prosperity of this nation.

**Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, it is ridiculous. The hon. member should look around and see what is happening in Canada.

When he claims that only two industrial sectors have gotten together, he should maybe talk to the Minister for International Trade.

Stop reading articles in the paper and go to the book and look at the government boards, the Labour Force Development Board. Talk to the private sector. He will find that not only two sectors have gathered together and are looking at how they can be more competitive in Canada, there are tens of sectors that are doing that.

Obviously the hon. member needs briefing. I would welcome him and we will take him through everything that is done under the Labour Force Development Strategy and then he will stand up in the House and thank and congratulate the Conservative government.

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### THE CONSTITUTION

**Mr. J. W. Bud Bird (Fredericton—York—Sunbury):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister Responsible for Constitutional Affairs.

With the deepening debate about Senate reform and a Triple-E Senate, many of my constituents, and I am sure many Canadians everywhere, are wondering if there is not a better or different way.