

Supply

This does not include provincial employees who would earn their basic wages and who could be much more productive in the private sector.

Thus, I would like to urge the minister to pursue his goals and try to improve the services provided to the unemployed by those offices in my riding. I am assured that the constraints, the delays suffered by the claimants are mostly due to the temporary physical organization and that as soon as the office will be relocated everything will be back in order. We know that employees are now divided into two offices in Rouyn, which tremendously complicates the operations. Those are the explanations I have been given. So I am prepared to give them a chance. But once the reasonable delay expires, if service is still inadequate they will see I can be very scathing.

They talk of temporary relocation, since the manpower centre will eventually be located in the new federal building to be started during winter or in the spring. As my old college buddy Jean de Lafontaine was wont to say, one must never count one's chickens before they are hatched. But take my word, this project which was promised in so many election campaigns will at long last see the day thanks to a Liberal government and a member of the right persuasion in the riding of Témiscamingue. The request for funds is now before Treasury Board, the last stage before tenders are called.

To conclude, I should like to congratulate the Minister of Employment and Immigration for the boundless concern and dedication he has demonstrated from the moment he was appointed. It is because the Government of Canada is made up of Canadians of similar stature that we trust in the future growth and wealth of our country. Since I am still entitled to a couple of minutes, I should like to finish on a pleasant yet true note. Last night, as I was taking part in an official opening in a parish called La Reine which is in my riding way out in northwestern Quebec, I met two great old gentlemen, Mr. Bernard and Mr. Goulet, very likely the two greatest Liberals ever in this country, who told me, "You know, kid, there are some people here who claim that we are 'coloured' Liberals." We can tell you it is not so. It is not a matter of colour, just a matter of common sense. Mr. Chairman, I trust that the present government will make sure that it remains a matter of common sense.

● (2010)

[*English*]

Mr. Taylor: Mr. Chairman, I believe in giving credit where credit is due. I wish to thank the minister for the co-operation he has shown in a large number of immigration cases and to the community program which is to take place this fall. I appreciate that co-operation. Also I want to pay a tribute to the project managers in Edmonton, particularly to Miss Turnley who has shown herself to be highly qualified. We got to know her better because she was in charge of the Bow River projects. The minister can certainly be proud of the work she did.

For a moment or so I would like to deal with the situation of the Indian and native people who are the greatest unused source of manpower in Canada. We sometimes forget the tremendous potential we have in these Indian and native people.

The Alberta government is taking giant strides in trying to help the Indian and Metis people to help themselves. In the great Canadian oil sands project at Fort McMurray, we established a type of college for training these people for specific jobs. At the Syncrude project they had special on the job-training programs for the Indian and Metis people. Most of them became excellent workmen.

As to the point the minister raised, and which the member for Wetaskiwin dealt with in regard to the bill of rights stopping some projects in Alberta, that is correct. The University of Calgary has taken a special interest in Indian and Metis people. Education has been taken to the reserves. Special training has been provided from Grade I up, if necessary. Indian people have been accepted into the University of Calgary without the usual qualifications and they have been given training. If my memory serves me correctly, more than 27 of them graduated with degrees. The University of Calgary now wants to establish a native faculty headed by a highly qualified native person. I have recommended this proposal to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development because I think it would attract native people from all across Canada. The university has already shown itself to be understanding and receptive to Indian people. Similarly, the Indian people know the university is helping them. It is wonderful to see Indian people mingling with all other Canadians on the campus. I would like to encourage the minister to assist wherever possible in establishing this faculty for Indians at the University of Calgary. In my opinion, this will be a giant step forward in getting our people off welfare and into a position where they can support themselves.

The University of Calgary found the bill of rights was hindering this program because the program was aimed at Indian people only. After a white woman had questioned why she was not allowed to take the course, she was permitted to take the course. But a court case followed and it was ruled the university could not discriminate in that way. Subsequently the Alberta government amended that section either in this session or the last and there is now no difficulty with it. These programs can now proceed at the University of Calgary and they are also being made available on the reserves for Indian people. There are special programs at the university where Indians can take a course, finish off their grade 10, 11 or 12 subjects, if necessary, and then go on with university training. This is a splendid thing. I think the people of Canada should know that the University of Calgary is doing this with the full support of the hon. David King and the hon. Jim Horsman, the ministers of education for Alberta.

Special courses for our Indian people have also been offered. When I was with the department of highways in Alberta we gave a course for heavy equipment operators. It was remarkable how many Indians qualified to operate those machines