

*National Training Act*

mental to our educational and training system and, indeed, to the employment opportunities for those in the 1980s.

Federal-provincial co-operation in implementing the measures of this bill is indeed vital. The minister has already been cautioned in that respect, and I do hope he is listening. The challenges have drastically altered work patterns and new technologies which will confront us in the 1980s will be difficult enough to cope with, without the additional aggravation of unnecessary federal-provincial conflict. That must be avoided at all costs. I am sure the minister has paid attention to the comments that were provided earlier in this debate by my colleague, the hon. member for Rosedale (Mr. Crombie), and I hope that he will take every opportunity to ensure that this program is carried out with the fullest co-operation from those members of provincial governments right across the country who will have to respond to the bill in some fashion.

I have mentioned the challenges which face us in the 1980s when it comes to the question of changes in work patterns, changes in unemployment programs and changes in the style which will determine the 1980s, but often when I listen to the minister's responses to questions in the House I get the strong impression that the federal government really has not been seized of the magnitude of the problems confronting us in the 1980s. We are now into the world of chip technology and this means major shifts in the work force. Chip technology, it has been said, could result in a social revolution in our country, and indeed in the world, of the same magnitude as the industrial revolution. However, it will probably be condensed into a much shorter time-frame. That time-frame will certainly encompass the decade of the eighties. We are already two years into that decade without the proper training programs having been put in place.

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Even now we see that the gap between skilled workers and the demand for certain skills and unemployment is widening, not contracting. The gap between the jobs that are available and unemployment is becoming greater. The immediate problem facing Canada is to match the skills of Canadians with available jobs.

I am sure the minister knows that thousands of jobs are vacant, because we do not have adequately skilled workers to fill them. Even though there are skilled jobs going for the asking, there are still one and a quarter million Canadians unemployed. When we take into consideration the hidden unemployed, there are probably closer to two million people.

There are still job openings not being filled because of this mismatch of supply and demand. The difference between supply and demand in the labour force has to be addressed and eliminated. The highly skilled blue collar worker is in demand. At the same time, the clerks, labourers and assembly line workers are finding that their jobs are becoming redundant. These people are joining the unemployment rolls.

The problem that faces us is here and now. The need to address it is immediate. I look at the province of Ontario as an example. The Ontario manpower commission reported that

108,000 new highly skilled positions will be created by 1986. That is the estimate of the number of new jobs to be created in the province of Ontario within the next four years. However, if current trends continue through our training programs and educational systems, the system in Ontario will produce only 62,000 skilled workers to meet that demand of 108,000 vacancies which will occur. Obviously the present system is not working. The assessment system of our needs and the training programs to meet those needs are not working at the present time.

In my comments today I want to bring to the minister's attention one concern in particular that I have. That is the impact that this chip revolution, this move into the new computer technology, is going to have on women, both those in the work force and those planning to enter the work force in the eighties.

High technology has the potential to create a very severe set of structural unemployment problems for women. Various studies I have looked at show that perhaps up to one million women who are presently working may find that their jobs will become redundant. At present, there are four million women in the work force employed in the sales, service and clerical sectors. These are the very sectors where the numbers of jobs will be reduced in the next ten years because of moving into microchip technology. These are the areas which will be most affected. Of course, those are the areas where women are primarily employed at the present time.

Indeed, if we look at areas such as clerical and service occupations, we find that the number of job openings is levelling off today and has been doing so for the past number of months. That levelling off will increase. There will be a decrease in opportunities in these sectors in the years immediately ahead. There are not the same number of new jobs being created for sales clerks, office clerks, bank clerks or telephone operators as there were five years ago. Those are the jobs which are predominantly held by women.

Computers displace clerical jobs. Clerical jobs is certainly one area. However, computers are also moving into other areas. They are bringing about significant employment changes in work places such as libraries, hospitals, retail outlets and factories. It is estimated, for example, that 30 per cent of present bank positions, that is tellers and clerks, those jobs primarily held by women, will disappear with the full advent of micro processing and electronic funds transfers.

Heather Menzies in her book "Women and the Chip" estimates that by 1990 one million women could find themselves without work unless they become computerized. Can we reasonably expect those one million women to revert to their traditional role and stay at home? Of course not. They will not do so intellectually and they cannot do so economically. If working wives were not in the labour force today, the number of Canadian families living below the poverty line would increase by something like 50 per cent.

We cannot afford the price tag either in welfare or unemployment, and the lost consumer market than women constitute. We cannot afford it in the human potential that they