

Unemployment Insurance Act

which certainly does not pertain to my riding. I suggest that it does not pertain to many other rural ridings in Canada.

It grieves me to no end that on the one hand the Minister for International Trade says that Newfoundland is going to get \$15 million more and on the other hand the Minister of Employment and Immigration comes out with a document in which the result is that we are going to get \$30 million less; \$30 million minus and \$15 million plus still gives me a minus \$15 million.

I want to go on record to acknowledge that I am going to do as much in my power as I can to ensure that the Canadian public is aware of the inconsistencies. I will do my utmost to make the people of Canada aware that these letters have been going out to well intentioned people who are expecting something for their communities, something for their unemployment insurance, something to boost their earnings. They get nothing but a cold letter indicating that there has been an abrupt, terrible and disconcerting change.

As their Member of Parliament, unfortunately I have to say to them: "I have not been consulted. I have not been briefed. I have not been made aware of these changes for which I have to answer to you and to the people of my riding."

I suggest that there are many other people certainly on this side of the House, and I would suggest on the other side of the House although they may not want to admit it, who are in exactly the same position.

I beg your indulgence, Mr. Speaker, to allow me to wrap up this by saying that I wish there were some other way that we could look at this.

I wish that the Minister of Employment and Immigration as a minimum would have a look at the concerns of Atlantic Canada and the rural ridings to see if there is something positive that can be done so that we can slow down this abruptness. I hope that there will and can be some amelioration of this job development program as a minimum to allow us more flexibility in those areas. It does not matter what we train people to do if there are no jobs for areas in which there can be no industry.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): If the Hon. Member for Kamouraska—Rivière-du-Loup would like to comment, I will recognize him.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Plourde: First, Mr. Speaker, I did not get the impression that the Hon. Member for Bonavista—Trinity—Conception (Mr. Mifflin) asked a question in the course of his remarks, but I do want to make a correction. The riding I represent is Kamouraska—Rivière-du-Loup. Still I should like to remind him that none of us has chosen the city, the province and the country where he or she was born. I too represent a remote riding, Kamouraska—Rivière-du-Loup, and we too have high unemployment. Mr. Speaker, this is precisely why this Bill was introduced in the House. Given the current unemployment rates, it will correct conditions which otherwise would have prompted a lot of people in the Province of Québec or in Newfoundland to pack up and leave for Ontario to seek work. Mr. Speaker, I want to tell him that under the job development strategy we will earmark \$775 million more for new labour-oriented programs to respond more adequately to the needs of the unemployed and to upgrade the skills of the Canadian labour force.

I fully appreciate the concern of my colleague from Newfoundland, what with their unemployment rate probably hovering around 20 per cent or more. And I understand very well when he refers to 24-week-or-more job development programs for high unemployment regions. Well, Mr. Speaker, that is the corrective course we want to steer by launching new training programs with the co-operation of the provinces. I am sure the Province of Newfoundland, like all other provinces in Canada, will be convened to discuss job training, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The question and comment period is over. The Hon. Member for Eglinton—Lawrence (Mr. Volpe) on debate.

[*English*]

Mr. Joseph Volpe (Eglinton—Lawrence): Mr. Speaker, perhaps the most appropriate view of the proposed changes under this Bill has been most aptly expressed by a Quebec based labour group.