

Supply

allegations are being made regarding the Government's job creation programs. They are so popular it is almost inevitable. The Member for Kamloops-Shuswap (Mr. Riis), who moved today's motion, knows how strongly Canadians support the Government's efforts to sustain our economic recovery. The Hon. Member is also aware that one of the most reliable ways of sustaining economic recovery is direct job creation.

Mr. Speaker, this country's greatest resource is its people. We must remember this when, owing to circumstances, the State has to play a greater role in supporting the economy. The federal Government has a responsibility to keep the impact of economic upheaval on the Canadian people to a minimum, and we have seen that such economic disturbances are often worldwide, as in the last recession.

We firmly believe that it is up to the private sector to provide jobs that will enhance the lives of Canadians. However, the Government has a duty to take measures to create an economic environment that will promote job creation. Sometimes, Mr. Speaker, the Government must play a life-saving role as we have seen in recent years when certain large corporations had to be helped. We spared no efforts at a time when, as I just pointed out, the world economic situation was going through a deep recession which had a very severe impact on the labour market. At that time we promoted the concept of work sharing, to keep the number of Canadians being laid off to a minimum.

During that same period, recognizing the fact that short-term solutions were not enough, the Government established a new National Training Program to help workers adjust to changing labour market conditions. Looking back, we have to admit that this country was able to pull through in better shape than other countries thanks to a more enlightened use of economic "cushions" such as our job creation programs and Section 38 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, which was used in a novel way to create thousands of jobs in the mining, forestry and fishing industries. Mr. Speaker, the Government has a duty to help the neediest groups of our society, and that is why a number of job creation programs focus especially on those groups that are most severely affected by unemployment. Similarly, we must ensure that regions particularly affected by factory or business shutdowns leading to massive layoffs are clearly identified, before proceeding with a fair distribution of grants. This is one of the reasons why, for instance, a number of ridings will receive more than the basic grant provided under the Canada Works Program.

Mr. Speaker, job creation is a subject that will continue to be discussed in the House, because thanks to additional funding announced in the Speech from the Throne, the Canadian Government's Job Creation Program for 1984-1985, including Canada Works, will have a budget of over \$1.1 billion, not counting expenditures for the present fiscal year, during which 260,000 people will have benefited, through these programs, from a total investment of \$805,700,000. There is hardly a

Member in this House, Mr. Speaker, who has not seen some very successful undertakings among his constituents, thanks to these job creation programs. As a result, many organizations, have been able to help Canadians earn a minimum wage while helping the community. Mr. Speaker, what about the active role played by the private sector which, among other things, sponsored over 22 per cent of Quebec projects under the NEED Program? What about the sustained efforts on the part of municipalities which are anxious to promote employment development? We have to admit that, both in job creation and vocational training, the Canadian Government has made a tremendous effort to support the private sector so as to ensure a sound economic recovery.

● (1550)

I would suggest that more often than not people have a tendency to discredit programs which foreign countries try to emulate or fit into their policies and which make it possible for workers to regain the satisfaction of having a job while doing something useful for the community, not to mention the fact that a good many of those jobs turn out to be permanent. For any youth who lands his first job ever, it is like money in the bank when he eventually seeks permanent employment, because he can indeed say that he has experience which he would not have gained otherwise.

Since I have this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, I would like to review the four new job creation programs sponsored by the Canadian Government which resulted from streamlining twelve employment programs. I would be remiss if I failed to point out that those new programs were structured in close co-operation with private industry, other Government levels, labour leaders and spokesmen for the education sector.

Two programs—Career-Access and Job Corps—are designed to get the best out of our human resources. In other words, they are designed to help people get ready to occupy a full-time job and to join the labour force. Another program, Canada Works, is aimed at the employment problems caused by the economic recession or by any other unforeseen disturbance on the labour market, for instance, the closing of a plant or a business, massive lay-offs, and so on. The fourth program, known as LEAD, or Local Employment Assistance and Development Program, is aimed at the community. Its purpose is to stimulate and support the development and growth of employment locally.

Let us look first at the Career Access Program. If we exclude operational expenditures, some \$294 million were allocated to this program for the year 1984-85 to create opportunities for those who find it very hard to get permanent jobs. Its main thrust is to tackle one problem which has become more serious these last few years, namely making the transition from classroom to workplace. Through the Career Access Program, we can bring practical solutions to two problems which have concerned many people for too long,