

The Budget—Hon. F. MacDonald

ty allowances and other programs are not always available for such individuals, so we have announced a four-year \$125 million program for older worker adjustment. With the cooperation of the Minister of Labour (Mr. McKnight), the provinces and the private sector, this new initiative will assist older workers who lose their jobs through major lay-offs or plant closures and who have no immediate prospects of re-employment.

It is clear that we are taking steps in a number of areas to improve the prospects of Canadians who need the most. We are doing this through greater training opportunities under the Canadian Jobs Strategy; through increased support for social assistance recipients in the area of job training; through initiatives to help farmers climb out from under a heavy debt load, and through steps to help older workers remain active in the labour market.

● (1140)

Probably the most important sector of our economy in terms of job creation is small business. For this reason, the Government has taken steps as announced in the Budget to strengthen the small business sector. We know that is where the dynamism is and where the new jobs will be created. Tax rates on small business income will be reduced. Rules providing for allowable business investment losses will be broadened. Total Government guaranteed loans under the Small Business Loans Act will be increased by 250 per cent. We are determined, as you can see, Mr. Speaker, that small business will continue to be the engine of growth and new jobs.

I would say, Sir, that jobs are just not created because people want them. It requires a commitment by the Government to take a new look at how we can identify the problems that exist, find new solutions and tackle the problems head on.

New training programs for social assistance recipients is a difficult issue, but we are tackling it. Special programs for farmers is a difficult issue, but we are tackling it. Older worker displacement is a very difficult issue, but we are tackling it.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, the measures this Government has taken and is taking in this Budget provide a sound basis for sustained growth for the rest of this decade.

[English]

Canadians can look forward to the future with confidence, Mr. Speaker, a future built on fiscal responsibility, on cooperation and on individual initiative, a future of continued economic growth and prosperity and, most of all, of jobs.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, once again we have had more propaganda from the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Miss MacDonald) with respect to what the Government is doing about unemployment. Sure, 580,000 jobs have been created since September, 1984—

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Allmand: —which, by the way, is far from being a record. Over 600,000 jobs were created when the present Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner) was Minister of Finance, and between the period 1978 and 1982 more jobs were created, but that is not the issue. The issue is that the Minister is using those figures over and over again to disregard very serious employment problems. I am not the only one who says so.

I do not know whether the Minister is aware of an article, in which she is referred to, in a recent issue of *Maclean's* magazine. The magazine quotes Edward Carmichael, Senior Policy Analyst for the C.D. Howe Institute, who is saying exactly the same thing I have been saying, that those encouraging employment statistics also veil some severe inequalities that could have very grave implications for the older workers, the part-time and temporary workers and the fact that we have four times as many people unemployed for more than one year than we did in 1981 and twice as many as we had in 1983.

In a poll published last week, 55 per cent of Canadians said they had little or no faith in the employment policies of the present Government. I quote from an editorial in the *St. John's Evening Telegram*: "Nothing to cheer about when you still have 1.25 million people unemployed". The Minister is cheering about her job strategy program, but after announcing that program last February in Regina and announcing it again in June, what happened? Because the Minister cannot put the program in place fast enough to do the job, \$226 million of her budget has been dropped. She did not even know what she was going to do when she announced the program in June. She has said that it is under way. But let me tell the Minister that 26 projects have been approved in the west end of Montreal and not one is under way at the present time. Not one person is working on a program she announced last June and announced in Regina in February. If the Minister is really serious about unemployment, let us have more than what she has given us.

With respect to part-time work, yes, the trend was recognized under the previous Government. It appointed the Wallace Commission which made recommendations with respect to the problems of part-time work. There is nothing in the Budget and nothing in the Minister's programs to implement the recommendations of the Wallace Commission to provide labour standards for part-time and temporary workers, or to prove *pro rata* benefits for them so they will be protected like all other workers.

The Canadian public, and it can be seen in the polls, does not appreciate the Minister brushing under the rug real unemployment problems by simply boasting about the total number of jobs created without any reference to the quality, the salaries, benefits and wages associated with those jobs. I would ask the Minister to address those underlying problems in the labour market relating to employment which Canadians want her to address and then I will cheer with her.

I cheer the fact that we have had some jobs created, but it is not enough to ignore those problems by repeating statistics. It will not do any good to the 700,000 young people about which