

I think at last count there was a minister of state for youth unemployment, a minister of state for immigration—I am not sure, I lose track, but I know that there are at least three ministers doing the job that I think she should be doing. She is not going to have as many problems because of the cut-backs under the Unemployment Insurance Program. There are a lot of people who should be cut in that department.

I want to deal with that as a cost to the infrastructure on the east coast. Going back to the Established Programs Financing, there are areas affecting everybody on the east coast concerning health care and university education. At the same time, this government, as I said, has cut again at another infrastructure and that is the Unemployment Insurance Program.

The Unemployment Insurance Program in rural Canada has provided a supplementary income. There isn't anyone who would not agree with me on that. It has provided seasonal employment with the additional help to stay for the jobs when they are available. In some rural areas it is not much because seasonal jobs are almost full-time jobs. In other areas it has allowed people to have that extra income.

This government is privatizing the unemployment insurance fund. That means it will only be funded by the employee who contributes and the employer who contributes as well. That is fine if you want it to be privatized, but I question how this government will replace the additional income that was there for Canadians across Canada. I do think that most Canadians would agree that we want people in rural areas of Canada, whether they be in Newfoundland, British Columbia, in our north, even in some of the rural areas of southern Ontario or the golden triangle between Montreal, Toronto and Ottawa doing without.

I cannot believe that the government can bring in legislation like this and not provide people with something as they try to find longer lasting jobs and more income from what is available. The government is removing this income. There is no income there.

The minister says she is going to use the funds in the UI fund that will pay for itself for retraining. Well you cannot do that. If you wanted to retrain everybody, the fund could not do it because the amount of money

Supply

required would be too great. Second, there are no jobs in the retraining programs for those people in rural areas. We are supposed to pass a bill incorporating changes to the Unemployment Insurance program that will cost Atlantic Canadians \$309 million, according to the Canadian Labour Congress. I heard the debate this week and I heard some people say: "Yes, the Liberals made cuts or made changes to the Unemployment Insurance. Yes, I was here when they made those changes, but they never did what this government is doing. If they reduced some aspects of the Unemployment Insurance Commission they at least put in job-creation money that would give people the dignity to have a job and find the necessary additional weeks, and it worked. If the community has to find the jobs, they will find them if you allow them some job-creation money to keep the people there for when the jobs return to the point that they can sustain them. This government is not doing that. It says it is going to retrain you. Retrain you where? In southern Ontario? From rural Nova Scotia? From rural Newfoundland? That is not what I consider a direction that is going to help regional economies.

• (1350)

On unemployment insurance just in the fisheries fund, in 1988, the government had to put in \$251 million to cover the shortfall because fishermen have not been able to contribute the total amount because there is no employer for the most part to contribute the total amount to the fisheries unemployment scheme. That is going. Who is going to replace that? Who is going to say to the fishermen that they will help in terms of the Unemployment Insurance Program? There is no consideration. There is no hope. Maybe it is all part of this government's attitude to the east coast fishery that will let the chips fall where they may. The big will survive, the foreigners will stay, the Americans can fish, but we are not going to intervene in the process to allow those thousands of people living in inshore communities to survive in those communities. There are no directed programs by this government for that.

The other area we have seen for what I consider infrastructure, has been cuts to defence. I have appreciated the facilities of defence being on the east coast. They were established there because there were wars going on and supplies were going across the Atlantic.