

Government Organization Act, 1983

around 20 per cent. Also an announcement was made concerning a special youth department which will zero in on employment and jobs for youth. Let us hope that these jobs will be meaningful and permanent ones, not 16-week or 20-week jobs to qualify young persons for future unemployment payments. I know that young people are very dismayed. Some have almost given up the hope at their young age of obtaining anything in the foreseeable future.

The breakdown of the tiers is certainly worth mentioning. Of course, the fourth tier is where the economy is at its lowest, where 5 per cent of the population has the greatest need. I believe the third tier is 5 per cent to 20 per cent and the second tier is 20 per cent to 35 per cent of the population. Of course, the balance of the country comes into the first tier.

This Department must consider the importance of small business. The small business sector, as I understand it and as has been mentioned time and again, provides over 50 per cent of the jobs in Canada. In recent months it has provided the most stimulus for new jobs. I hope the new Department will place particular emphasis upon the small business sector and ensure that funds are available for it. It was mentioned previously that industry by and large prefers tax incentives to grants. I appreciate that, but I want to emphasize that in disadvantaged areas which are endeavouring to attract new industry tax incentives will certainly not be any great carrot for it to locate there. These grants must be available.

Also I hope there will be a greater speed-up in the investigation of applications. As a rural Member I have had many applicants ask me to look into their applications to see what is the holdup. Of course, I have approached the regional offices and I can say that the officers in charge are certainly most helpful. Time and again they have said, "It takes time". Many prospective industries coming into an area cannot wait an interminable length of time. I hope the new Department and its officials will see to it that the applications are processed much quicker.

Another point worthy of mention is the fact that many grants hinge on both provincial and federal co-operation. For example, infrastructure payments are paid percentage-wise by both levels of Government. In some cases the municipal Government participates. In the past, as a federal Member of Parliament I have approached officials in the regional office of DREE. They have stated, "Mr. Darling, you do not have to worry at all. We have done everything. It is ready to go. The only problem is that the Province is holding it up." Then I immediately contacted the provincial counterpart and got the same story. They would say, "Everything is fine. We have done everything but the federal Government has not given its royal assent as yet." I guess it is the old story of blaming someone else, but I know the process could be speeded up a great deal if both levels of bureaucracy got their acts together, and if there was any hitch in one or the other they could iron it out themselves. In two or three different cases I have had possible industrialists finally throwing up their hands because of the red tape and the delay. They were told that it would be several months down the road, so they just gave up. I know of

several small industries in one area which are still on hold or waiting for something to come up. This is not going to help job creation.

● (1600)

As I said before, I am aware that the federal Government knows how serious the situation is. It knows the state of the economy. Even though we in the Opposition are just guessing, I would assume that in the very near future the federal Government will have to make an announcement of a great amount of money available for job creation.

Apparently the economy is on the upswing, although it was mentioned today that the graph seems to be going down. Let us hope that is a temporary situation. Whether we like it or not, we are in for a pretty tough winter as far as jobs are concerned. The unemployment situation will be very serious for many, if not all, constituencies in Canada.

This morning the Hon. Member for Willowdale (Mr. Peterson) quoted figures with regard to the sizeable amount of money going to various regions under the new DREE Program. I believe he stated that for the Province of Quebec, the amount will go from \$98 million to \$124 million. The Atlantic Provinces will get a considerable boost, from \$109 million to \$230 million. My Province, Ontario, has the most unemployment in the country. I concede that is logical because it has the greatest population. The amount will be increased from \$33 million to \$40 million, not a very large sum.

I mentioned earlier that for a number of years I served on the DREE committee. Until a year or a year and a half ago, I assumed that DREE grants were for the same amounts across the board. Eligible districts or regions of Ontario received DREE grants of 25 per cent, give or take, based on the capital cost of equipment, machinery and equipment. In some cases the grants were made having regard to the number of new jobs generated.

When the DREE committee visited the Maritimes, my eyes were opened. Along with other Members of the committee, I visited the great Province of Newfoundland. When I heard that the grants there were not in the order of 25 per cent, as I thought but in some cases as high as 90 per cent, I scratched my head. On visiting New Brunswick, I was again told of very substantial DREE grants. I am aware there is high unemployment in that area, but in parts of the Province of Ontario there are also great pockets of unemployment. The melon was not being divided as fairly as possible. I see you are beginning to rise, Mr. Speaker, so I will conclude my remarks.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Are Hon. Member rising to ask questions of the Hon. Member who has just spoken? The rules provide for a ten-minute period of questions and answers.

Mr. Waddell: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Hon. Member. I would ask the Member who just spoke to state briefly the Conservative Party position, if there were in government, as to whether they would keep the Department of Regional Economic Expansion. Would they keep the Department of Regional Economic Expansion, as a few members said