

where the population is growing significantly. There is a shift from central Canada and eastern Canada to western Canada.

There are some people in this nation who forget about the economic contributions of Ontario to confederation in terms of providing employment for the graduates of the rest of Canada. For 25 years or more the economic activity in this nation has been primarily in Ontario. It was there for very specific reasons. Ontario had some economic advantages in confederation. It has subsidies which reversed and provided the opportunity for growth in Ontario. It was located strategically in terms of the vast population in the United States. It was a manufacturing centre. It was the research centre of Canada.

Ontario provided jobs for graduate boys and girls from all over Canada when there were no jobs anywhere else. I can vouch for that because in 1950, as a fresh graduate from Alberta, as one of 64 chemical engineers, literally 62 of us had to find employment in Ontario. Ontario provided the employment sustenance for youngsters from all over Canada. Ontario to a large degree sustained this nation in economic activity, research and development for a large number of years when there was no activity in many parts of the nation. I know all about it. I have repeatedly gone through the advantages that Ontario has enjoyed in confederation.

Just as in the United States, this situation in Canada has changed. As in the United States, capital and labour flows where there is opportunity. Indeed, if there is anything we have in this nation, it is that we have too large a deterrent effect on the flow of capital and labour to where the opportunity is. Just as in the United States where economic opportunities moved from the east coast to the central United States, then to the west coast and on to Texas, a similar situation is happening in Canada. It is a good situation. I have no difficulty with the fact that Ontario enjoyed its time in confederation as the most prominent and fastest growing area in confederation, but the situation has changed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member but the time allotted to him has expired. He may continue only with the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member may continue. Again I call to his attention the subject matter of the bill.

Mr. Yurko: Mr. Speaker, I will not intrude upon the privileges of hon. members for very long, perhaps 30 or 40 seconds. I simply want to make the point that with regard to providing employment, Ontario played a vital role in this area in past years. The economic climate in the nation is shifting. Some of it is shifting eastward because of the resources in the Newfoundland area. Some of it is shifting westward. Indeed, some is shifting northward in a massive way to some areas of the Yukon.

I want to make the point that in a federated country, one federated of different parts, regions and potentials, this is a

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good thing. This is a wonderful thing that all of us as Canadians enjoy because Canadians can move anywhere in this vast land, this vast country of riches, and accept opportunity. In most cases that can be done without sacrifice and without need to give up on your culture, your language and your roots.

Mr. Jack Shields (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, I would first like to congratulate the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Axworthy); he has a very difficult job and I wish him well. I would also like to congratulate Madam Speaker on her appointment and all those who sit in the chair.

The Minister of Employment and Immigration has made a very simple request. I wish to quote from his statement when submitting the amendment:

The bill is very simple in its purpose. It is simply to extend for one further year the application of the employment tax credit program, a program which was brought in 1978 to provide a range of tax credits to private employers for creating additional or incremental employment.

I wish to quote another remark:

In the last year the tax credit program has provided close to 50,000 additional jobs, according to the best figures that we have, at a cost of approximately \$100 million.

I then go to the next phrase, which hits me between the eyes:

Our estimates and evaluations show that about 60 per cent of those under the program were young people.

Good so far, but then he goes on to say:

The tax credit program seems to have provided a degree of benefit, particularly in the manufacturing industry, and it has had a fair degree of regional application.

The emphasis is mine. I have only two brief comments to make to the minister. If I can have his attention for no more than four minutes, I will make those comments and then sit down.

I wish to point out that as a small businessman I have had occasion to come across this program at the receiving end, and I feel that the total legislation is really open to abuse. The evidence that I have and which I would like to pass on is, to borrow a phrase, that it has had a fair degree of abuse.

I know of a number of occasions where small businessmen have applied to the local Manpower office for someone to fill an appointment or job with the result that an employee from the Manpower office journeyed to and solicited the employer to sign up for this program saying that he qualified for this program because it is a new job. I submit to the minister that this is not what the legislation was intended for in the first place, but it is happening. Estimates seem to point to 30 per cent or 40 per cent abuse. It is being abused in this way and employment tax credit is being applied under the program although these people would have been hired in any case. If the amendment is passed, as I am sure it will be, I hope the minister will undertake an honest evaluation of the program as far as that aspect is concerned.

● (1550)

In conclusion, I should like to pass on a little information to the minister and ask him possibly to intercede with his col-