

Supply

The number of bankruptcies among consumers in Ottawa rose from 527 in 1984 to 1,214 in 1990, a 130 per cent increase.

Over the same period, business bankruptcies increased by 80 per cent, from 174 in 1984 to 314 in 1990.

[English]

The Tories have already hit their predicted unemployment high rate for 1991 at 10 per cent. We got that news last Thursday. As a matter of fact they have exceeded 10 per cent. Ontario has its highest unemployment rate since August 1983, at 9.5 per cent. Canadian employers and employees will pay an extra \$2 billion over the next year in unemployment insurance premiums to pay for Tory mismanagement.

Who knows what is in store for the next few months? It is true that the Tories have no desire to stay in office because they are trying to destroy not only the economy of this country but many other things. Under Tory management, productivity in Canadian manufacturing is declining. Between 1985 and 1988 the level deteriorated compared to other leading industrial countries. The Canadian Manufacturers' Association, no friends of ours, estimates that 180,000 manufacturing jobs will be lost by the time this recession hits bottom. It estimates that half of these jobs will be permanently lost.

The quality of Canada's job training will be another important ingredient in our future prosperity. The Tory government has chosen to make a \$100 million cut in the Canadian Jobs Strategy, designed to help Canadians retrain and adjust to a changing labour market. A recent Coopers and Lybrand study stated, and I quote: "Canada suffers from a shortage of skilled trades workers. Furthermore the lack of a universal system for trades training and certification in our education system has produced a work force whose skills sets do not match the technology needs of today". These are some of the problems.

Statistics Canada found on apprenticeship programs that almost half the participants dropped out in Ontario. *Toronto Star*, March 6, 1991, a few days ago states: "Drop-out rate across Canada is 40.6 per cent or 49,620 dropped out in 1986-87". In Ontario, my province, the rate rose to 42.3 per cent or 60,320 people quit training, abandoned. The main reason given was dissatisfaction with the program.

This is totally unacceptable from a government. In 1985, the Ontario government, a Liberal government, in a discussion paper noted crucial steps Canada must take to improve its job training system: one, design and support a comprehensive world class training system that matches our competitors; two, make training an unequivocal and integral part of our industrial development objectives; three, ensure fair and equal access to quality training for individuals in the cross regions and businesses. The paper concludes: "The government should take the lead in developing socially appropriate and industrial superior training and that the real level of federal financial support must be sustained and enhanced".

I notice, Mr. Speaker, that you indicate my time is over. Mr. Speaker, a nation that abandons training and development of its youth abandons its future. I suppose that these Tories over there do not care, but we do on this side and the quicker they get out of there, the quicker this country will get back on its feet.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Five minute question and comments period.

Hon. William C. Winegard (Minister for Science): Mr. Speaker, I just want to correct some of the impressions left by my hon. friend concerning science and technology in Canada. Since 1984-85 we have increased spending on science and technology from \$4.1 billion to \$5.5 billion in the current year, a real increase of 8 per cent.

My hon. colleague again mentions financing of R and D in Canada.

I think he should be wise enough to know exactly where the difficulty is. If he looks at public sector spending—presumably, that is what he was concerned about and criticizing—he will see that in the latest figures I have, 1987, Sweden spent .73 GDP; Switzerland, .51; Japan, .6; Germany, 8.2; U.S., .45; the U.K., .46; Canada, .56; and Italy, .60. We do not do too badly in terms of public sector spending here.

The real problem comes if you look at the industrial component. Let me just rhyme off a few of those for his edification, Mr. Speaker. The industrial spending as a percentage of GDP: Sweden, 1.82; Switzerland, 2.27; Japan, 1.97; Germany, 1.82; U.S., 1.27; Canada, .57.

It seems to me that one of the reasons the private sector is having difficulty is that it had to struggle for years without the proper incentives or, indeed, without the proper programs to promote science and technology,