

Employment Tax Credit Act

their purposes. That is one of the directions in which we are moving in our discussions with native organizations across the country.

Mr. Orlikow: Mr. Chairman, there is no one who believes more than I that one of the main reasons native people have not progressed as far as they should has been the paternalistic and dictatorial attitude of governments which are almost exclusively white. For more than a hundred years they have told native people what to do to get the meagre assistance which has been available to them.

● (2130)

To the extent that the native people will continue to live in their own communities, let native organizations have control over the kind of training that is carried out and meets the needs of those communities.

I can only talk from personal observation about Winnipeg—I am sure my colleagues from Regina can talk about Regina—but what we are seeing in Western Canada is a very marked movement, which has gone on for a number of years now, and which is continuing at an accelerating pace, of native people into our cities. When the native people come to our cities and they start to look for work, they are going to have to meet the standards of the employers, whether it be in the public or the private sector.

I believe it is the right of our native people, like any other Canadian citizen, to decide and to choose where to live. But the native people are choosing to move to the urban centres. I feel it is very important that we make it possible for them to get the training, to get the education and to acquire the skills which will permit them to get adequate and reasonably well-paying jobs in the cities. Without that these people cannot find housing or have any kind of a living except getting the bare necessities through welfare.

I am sure the minister knows of this situation from personal observation as well as I. In our community colleges and in other training institutions in those cities, in those provinces where there is this movement into the city, I hope to see a major effort different than it has been up to now, to try to bring these people into the main stream of our life so that they can live as other people in our provinces do. I do not believe that we have seen that up to the present time.

Miss Campbell: Mr. Chairman, I have a number of questions for the minister. I happened to be around when the government of the day passed this legislation. I felt it would be appropriate legislation giving incentive to employers to find new jobs. But it is rather disappointing, to say the least, that when one starts looking at the figures, I think out of the \$100 million that goes into this program, probably about .01 per cent comes back to Nova Scotia. That would be about \$1 million. If one looks at the southern end of the province having 10 per cent of Nova Scotia's jobs created, it comes to about \$100,000.

Before expanding on that point, perhaps the minister could tell me whether there is a difficulty in the southern end of

Nova Scotia or in these areas of using this program to create jobs. When this employment tax credit bill was created, I spoke favourably and I hoped that the people in the area would benefit. I have encouraged companies in my region to go into it, but apparently they are not taking it up. Has the minister any given reasons why, in southern Nova Scotia, they cannot seem to create jobs, and lasting jobs?

I ask the minister if there is a different rate for different areas of the province in Nova Scotia, or is it all one rate job creation? I would ask also what that rate would be in the southern end of the province. Is it \$2, it is in some areas of Quebec, or is it less than that as a job incentive tax credit?

These are a couple of concerns. Would the minister have any response as to why this program does not seem to go over in high unemployment areas, such as the southern end of Nova Scotia?

Mr. Axworthy: Mr. Chairman, I suggest one reason why the program did not enjoy success over the past year was that we lacked the competent and effective services of the present member for South West Nova who would provide the kind of educational and distributional material for which she is so well known in her riding. We probably suffered for her absence in getting the program accepted during that period of time.

As I have said in the past, the tax credit program is not a program that is necessarily applicable in all regions of the country on equal rates. It does depend on the existence of a body of employers who have the initiative and the ability to take up the program.

In some areas of the country where economic conditions are not prosperous, where there is high unemployment, obviously the tax credit is not particularly appropriate. That is why we decided that rather than again relying solely upon the tax credit as the only job-creation measure, we would reintroduce direct job creation, such as the Canada Development Program, which I can assure the hon. member will have a much larger degree of investment in that part of Nova Scotia than she would have had under the previous government's program.

Miss Campbell: Mr. Chairman, I was around when the amendments were made to the Unemployment Insurance Act. We were supposed to be saving about \$1 billion and reinvesting it into employment programs. One of the reasons why we could come up with this employment tax credit was that it had an appeal not only to corporations and companies to give the incentive to create, but it was supposed to create jobs. I think that some of the amendments to the Unemployment Insurance Act took away millions and millions of dollars from the southern end of the province and created lots of confusion as to the amount of the numbers of weeks because of the variable entrance requirements last year. Then I look at a program like this. I think there were 65 jobs created in 1979 to 1980 in two manpower offices in my riding.

We can talk about other programs, but this happens to be very effective in some areas of the country. Maybe it is effective in areas that do not have high unemployment. I still cannot understand why we are not getting people in the area to