

*The Address—Mr. Foster*

especially pleased that the Government has focused on the question of youth unemployment and has taken a number of initiatives in that regard. A Youth Opportunities Fund of \$1 billion has been set aside for youth training. I am pleased that a lot of that money will be earmarked for programs like the Access Program which will provide subsidies for young people to go into the private sector and get jobs. Unemployed youth are always confronted with the question: "What experience do you have?" The youth Access Program will provide the employer with some subsidization while the young person is training. I believe the 400,000 or 500,000 young people who are unemployed and looking for work in this country today represent a great potential opportunity for us if we give them the opportunity for employment, and hopefully much of it will be through the private sector. Conversely, if we do not zero in on that problem, if we do not work very hard to resolve it, it can become the most destructive and wasteful situation in our country.

● (1115)

I am pleased that the Government is going to commit nearly \$100 million more to the Canada Works Program. In my constituency that translates into some \$445,000, which will, of course, be beneficial. Likewise, the Summer Canada Program which provided approximately 400 jobs last year will be funded at a similar level this coming year. Although there have been additional funds put into the Canada Works Program, I note that there is no corresponding NEED Program this year. I certainly hope that the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde), when he brings down his budget next month, will look very seriously at reinstating a program of that magnitude. I know he is concerned that he not increase the budget deficit and I feel that is a sound fiscal position. However, if we look at that \$500 million which was spent last year on the NEED Program, we find that the Ontario Government alone put up an extra \$100 million which was augmented by several hundred millions of dollars by the private sector and non-profit groups. I believe we see a massive megaproject in terms of dollars being expended. The beauty of that is it is expended in a hundred small communities across the Province of Ontario and across the other provinces of this country.

Unemployment insurance payments, I understand, are running in the order of \$1 billion a month now. A commitment of some \$400 million or \$500 million for additional employment with emphasis on youth in the Budget would be very wise. When you subtract the amount of money which is being paid out in unemployment insurance benefits for those people who are being employed under the NEED Program—in Ontario we call it the Co-Ed NEED Program—the net cost is probably only 25 per cent or 35 per cent of the actual cost of reinstating that program. Therefore, I hope that the Government will look at that when it is planning the Budget later next month.

The important measures which were in last year's Budget, the special recovery tax credits of some \$2.4 billion, will start to show a benefit in terms of plant expansion, in export marketing and in additional economic activity in this coming year. In my constituency some of these programs under the

special recovery project got underway last year. Last year we spent about \$1 million on small craft harbour development in communities like Little Current, Gore Bay, Bruce Mines and a number of other communities. In this coming year an additional six or seven small craft harbours will be developed and some \$2 million will be spent.

● (1120)

This provides not only construction opportunities but a real boost to tourism in our area. We have the north channel of Lake Huron, one of the best cruising and boating areas in the world, and the Government is making an important contribution to small craft harbour development.

As well, in the next few weeks a major project will be tendered and construction will get underway in Elliot Lake on the \$8 million mine research laboratory. Construction is slated to get underway in May of this year and will provide significant employment opportunities, and ultimately a very important mine research facility to support the uranium mines there and other mining operations throughout our country.

In Sault Ste. Marie, Mr. Speaker, in the Algoma constituency, a new \$5 million airport terminal is being designed by the architect and is slated to go to tender later this spring. Those projects will play an important role in providing jobs in this coming year.

There is a project which I have been working very hard in my constituency for, under the Distribution System Expansion Program of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. This program extends natural gas pipelines to unserved areas of eastern Canada. A study is now underway on building a major natural gas pipeline from Sault Ste. Marie along the north shore of Lake Huron, ultimately to the natural gas pipeline in Espanola, but serving all the intervening communities of Bruce Mines, Thessalon, Blind River and Elliot Lake. We hope that project will be approved for support under the DSEP program.

One of the most difficult economic problems faced by my constituency, Mr. Speaker, is that of the steel industry in Sault Ste. Marie which during the past two years has been in a very depressed state of development. There have been important layoffs both in Sault Ste. Marie and many other areas of our country where the steel industry is the main employer. I am hopeful that the \$16 billion of economic development provided under the Crow Bill which was passed in this House last fall will be beneficial there. I am also hopeful that the agreement which the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Lumley) has been working on with the Japanese auto industry will be successful because I think that will provide additional opportunities for the steel industry.

There has been very encouraging news in the last few days concerning exploration and development in the oil and gas industry. I think this will provide additional incentives to this industry which is so important to many communities in our country.