

You do not retrain for quality control in five weeks or five months. It is now a high-tech college degree.

• (1710)

If you could answer the questions about unemployment, how this is going to benefit us when our training programs have been cut back, and the different jobs that are available.

Mr. Proud: Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for the comments and questions. The first area he mentioned was people who are not eligible for unemployment insurance because they do not have the necessary number of weeks. This is an area that I mentioned during my remarks in the debate. It is an area that bothers me as a person from Atlantic Canada where we see the seasonal type of work. Granted, if we could enjoy some of the work in the industry that is prominent in certain parts of Canada, I could certainly see the concept of their program. But in those areas you are just painting everybody with the same brush. In those areas where seasonal work is part of the norm, concessions have to be made. I asked the Minister that question a couple of weeks ago. Concessions have to be made in this area until something takes its place, or the unemployed will be on the welfare roles of the provincial Governments.

As has been stated by some of the Premiers, this is a great worry to the provincial Governments.

The retraining programs. I have full support for retraining programs. There is a part that bothers me about them. I mentioned it at a committee meeting the other day. I think where Canada and North America has failed is in apprenticeship programs.

The exceptions are the areas that were mentioned: the steel industry, the auto industry, and the electric utility industry. They have ongoing training programs within their companies. The general training of apprentices in the high-tech industries have been failed.

As Canadians, we took the outlook that if you are not a university graduate and if you went to a trade school, you are a different class of citizen. That is unfortunate. I think most people agree that that is the mentality that has developed in North America in the last 150 years. It is unfortunate because this is not the mentality that has developed in Great Britain and other places where they have great apprenticeship programs.

Unemployment Insurance Act

The other question I have asked time and time again on retraining is that in certain areas of Canada, what do you retrain people for if there are no jobs for them to go to?

The Hon. Member from Burlington has lists there. I will ask him for one for my province. If there are areas to train these people for, yes, I can see the validity of it. In a lot of cases, I cannot see where these people are going to be trained unless they are prepared to move to another part of Canada.

Ms. Langan: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a couple of questions. I was most interested in the reply and in the speech just given by the Hon. Member. The speaker before him said that the UI program was going to address child care for those people who require it to return to the work force. However, he did not explain how indeed the program would do that. I would ask if the Hon. Member joins me in being quite concerned about the lack of definition of just how that will happen.

I would also like to ask the Hon. Member if he shares the views of many of us that it is wrong to be denigrating and condemning all unemployed people on the basis of a few who may in fact be abusing the system. I think it is a very serious concern that all of us have about that kind of statement. I would appreciate it if he would comment on it.

Mr. Proud: Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for her questions. I, too, am concerned about the lack of a description as to how these things are going to take place, especially in the child care area.

The child care issue has been tossed around for a number of years. As yet, I see nothing coming forward that is concrete. It is the same with the Bill in general. We are going forward without the regions of the country in place before the Bill becomes law.

Child care today is a very important issue. The Hon. Member from Burlington (Mr. Kempling) talked about single mothers going to work. Until we have a definition of how this becomes a reality, I will remain very concerned about it.

In the area of condemning the unemployed, this is a great way out for a lot of individuals. You hear it from all across the country. They condemn these people on unemployment insurance.