

committed plan could be greatly alleviated if members would allow me to get out of the House so that I could have some time to do that. He might suggest to his colleagues, as one answer to one of the questions he poses, they allow the minister to go back and do the job he is suggesting we do. However, I want to give him some assurances within these areas. First, some things are taking place, and second, some things are in motion.

As the hon. member knows, the federal government already spends over \$800 million on training programs. We are the largest educators in Canada. However, we are limited in the expenditure of that money to joint agreements with the provinces. The provinces have clear jurisdiction over education. We do buy a substantial number of places within community colleges and vocational schools, but that has to be based upon the agreement of the provinces themselves. The curricula established in those colleges are very much under provincial control. We are in a position where we have to renegotiate all the training agreements under the Occupational Training Act with the provinces in the next year or so.

The preliminary meetings I have had with provincial ministers indicate to me that they are prepared to start shifting substantial amounts of money into the industrial training area. We will be negotiating over the next several months how that can take place. Beyond that, I would point out to the hon. member that we do have the so-called critical skills training program which is designed to do on-the-job, on-site training. We did add an additional \$10 million this year under our job creation package to bring the total expenditure in that area up to \$30 million.

I would also like to tell the hon. member, because he did ask the question last time, that we are aware of the tremendous human resource requirement in the energy industry. I would report to him that I met with senior officials of the oil companies in Calgary last week where we discussed what their manpower or personpower requirements are. We have begun to take steps to do some joint planning in those kinds of areas.

The hon. member should recognize as someone interested in this area that the energy industry itself has been very negligent in its own planning for manpower requirements. Private industry in Canada has been accustomed to supplying its skilled needs by offshore recruitment. We are providing much tougher requirements now. If they want to bring people from offshore, they must also train people as part of the program. We are insisting upon that in a very direct way. Really what is required now is much closer co-operation between ourselves, industry and the unions to make sure we have those skills flowing through. Industry itself is now coming to a recognition of that fact. However, they have had it easy. We have all had it easy.

The hon. member properly identifies—and this is undoubtedly one of the critical issues of the eighties—that many major resource projects will not go ahead if we do not have the people in place or the skills necessary to make it happen. The great paradox on which he properly puts his finger is that we have increasing demands for new skills in the energy and

resource areas, and at the same time we have a large pool of unemployment. The task of this government and industry will be to make the transition from that pool of unemployment to those job areas. That is something we identify. We hope to be able to borrow again from the experience of members of Parliament of the task force which has been established, which I hope will be able to pinpoint many of the difficulties and the solutions that we can use and utilize over the next years to come.

Mr. Rose: Mr. Chairman, I did not want to let this opportunity pass without having regard to some of the concerns that have been expressed to me about this whole matter of unemployment and what it is likely to be in the eighties. I sometimes wonder whether somebody up there did not like the minister when he gave him that particular job. If the projections are anywhere near accurate, in spite of all his task forces, band-aid programs and \$10 million programs, there has to be a much more fundamental kind of approach to this whole problem or else we are going to be defeated in this one as we have in many others.

Let me just give the committee a few statistics. In 1946, about 25 per cent of the work force was employed in agriculture, but only 5.2 per cent were so employed in 1975. In the same year, 1946, mining and forestry employed 4 per cent of the work force. Many of those in my province were unemployed but if they were working it is probable that by 1975 they would be employing possibly 2.4 per cent of the work force. It is the number one industry in my province and yet in terms of the total contribution to the work picture across Canada it is a very small amount. It is a very serious situation.

● (1650)

Similarly, manufacturing shows a terrific drop over the last 20 years, from 26 per cent to 21 per cent. That is a very serious matter.

What is an even more serious matter than it appears to be—and it is aside from the one mentioned by the hon. member for Richmond-South Delta—is the one which concerns the ultimate future of the communications and telecommunications industry in this country. It appears there will be a great number of people unemployed. Formerly, as people were dropped from the agricultural, forestry and manufacturing industries, they found employment in the service sectors in the 1950s and 1960s. Nearly two million jobs were created between 1970 and 1979, mainly in the retail and trades services, and it is precisely those jobs which are now being threatened by the new micro-technological revolution we are embarking upon.

The Secretary of State and Minister of Communications appeared before the committee this morning and told us that he was deeply conscious of these problems. Perhaps he will take an interest—at least, I hope he will—in the task force having to do with new employment opportunities, because it is precisely in the field which he administers that the great shocks of unemployment are likely to come. All kinds of