

*Employment Tax Credit Act*

that it is an objective which was set out in 1913 for the Liberals by Mackenzie King. So the Americans are 30 years behind us in this respect. They are experiencing the same kind of problems we have in living up to that because of the very turbulent economic conditions that exist.

**Mr. Waddell:** Has the minister considered the possibility of framing some sort of long-term industrial strategy to implement the measures of Mackenzie King in 1913 to solve our present difficulties with unemployment. Has the minister considered moving in that direction?

**Mr. Axworthy:** Not only have we considered it, Mr. Chairman, we are in the process of doing it. It is unfortunate that the hon. member has not participated in the debate sooner. He could have entered it at any time in the last three weeks.

We have established a parliamentary committee to develop exactly those kinds of proposals. We also have a task force working within government to examine the different conditions that are changing in the economy of the country and we are studying how government programs may best be utilized to solve that problem. Perhaps the hon. member should speak to his colleague, the hon. member for Winnipeg North, who will be a member of that committee and suggest these ideas to him, because those are the objectives of the committee.

● (1750)

**Mr. Waddell:** Mr. Chairman, I thought the member was going to suggest that I speak to the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre and ask him about Mr. King and his plans. However, I want to add a couple of comments in what I hope is a positive spirit of debate, since I am urging the minister and the member from Eglinton to be positive. I think the member for Prince George-Peace River who last spoke brought up the point about the need for critical skills and for long-term skills. He also made reference to the apprenticeship program. Yesterday I flew from British Columbia with a gentleman who was president of a small corporation in Richmond, the Canadian Aircraft Products Ltd. Even though he was from Richmond, he deigned to sit with me! I heard a story that I have heard before. It concerned a fairly sophisticated corporation that makes aircraft parts and is looking for workers because they cannot get skilled workers. So what do they do? I hear a member say that we should blame it all on the unions. Let us not blame it all on them. If they have some part of the blame, then they should take it. But it seems to me that it goes further. It seems to go into the school system and into our attitudes and so on. We have too easily taken skilled labour from the old country. I know because my father came from the old country where they seem to get some kind of an education in skilled trades, and we are still relying on them.

I have heard the minister's reply and I will not ask him what he is going to do about it. I was happy that the question was put and that the reply was given, and I would second the need to encourage real jobs in terms of apprenticeship jobs.

I know the hon. member from Richmond will not believe this, but as a small employer in Richmond where I used to

have a business I took advantage of this program. I can tell the hon. member from Lac-Saint-Jean that. On one occasion when we hired a secretary, I suppose we did not need to take advantage of the program; but it was a good break in terms of money, although I think we would have hired the secretary anyway. On another occasion the program was useful because we were able to hire a woman who had been out of the labour force. She had had children and it was somewhat difficult for her to get back into the labour force. We took a chance on her and it worked wonderfully well in getting her back into the labour force. I tell the minister that the program was helpful and that is why we will ultimately support this bill.

Before I sit down I want to ask the minister one more question. It has to do with remarks made by my colleague the member from Regina East and concerns the native people.

If I could back up a little bit, I am not sure whether the minister noticed in today's question period—perhaps my friend from Lac-Saint-Jean did—when the member from Broadview-Greenwood asked a question in French about an industrial matter and the government minister from Windsor replied in French. This was done as a matter of course. I do not know whether many members noticed, I am a new member and I noticed. It occurred to me how far we have come in this country.

As I look across at my friends over there—the little coterie, I am tempted to say the poker game, but I know that comes later—it comes partly through their efforts, through sticking up for their language, their culture and demanding it. I congratulate them for that.

I allude to this because I am thinking about the question of the native people. At some point we have to make a similar type of commitment. We have to say that there is an injustice there and we must be prepared to make extraordinary commitments to native people in Canada. I find that the employment provisions in this bill—I think it is something like \$10 million but I am sure the minister can correct me if I am wrong—are not really sufficient for native employment.

I have a letter here from the Kootenay Indian area council. This letter is in reference to work on the pipeline, the Alaska natural gas pipeline which is to come through their area. They are requesting that the Northern Native Development Corporation act as a vehicle through which people are hired so they can monitor it, protect their land sites and ensure that people are hired for a reasonable length of time and on a reasonable scale. Yet they never seem to get any help or commitments, either from the pipeline companies or from the northern pipeline agency. This is what they say in their letter:

Our request has been made clear on a number of occasions that the NNDC be given the contract for clearing, grubbing, grading and stockpiling on the pipeline to accommodate the employment of our people.

I saw this kind of employment in Alaska, in Copper Center, where native corporations take gravel and have contracts with the northern pipeline. I saw women workers in Alaska who belonged to the Teamsters Union. They were working on the trucks. Through the American civil rights act and through the affirmative action program they were working. The Americans