

has been stimulated by a number of initiatives outlined in the Economic Statement of the Minister of Finance of November 1984 and in the Budget of May 1985. We have already begun to see the results of the measures outlined in those two economic statements. There is a renewed confidence in the Canadian economy. Investment in manufacturing is up 22 per cent this year over last year. New housing starts are up 37 per cent, to almost 200,000 units. Inflation is at its lowest level in 14 years, and there is a return of consumer spending confidence.

● (1130)

[*Translation*]

Through the Canadian Jobs Strategy, we have made the connection between job training and real labour market requirements.

Mr. Speaker, the allocation of \$800 million to the Canadian Jobs Strategy in 1987-88, as announced in the Budget, will give us the longer term financing we need to plan our activities in terms of future labour market requirements.

[*English*]

This is the right strategy. It is the first strategy to deal head on with the real needs of the Canadian labour force, a strategy which addresses the needs of young people trying to break into the working world for the first time; the needs of women wanting to re-enter the labour force; the needs of the long-term unemployed, of older workers and of workers who need retraining to be able to cope with technological change; the needs of workers in communities suffering severe economic decline; and the needs of individual Canadians and entrepreneurs with new ideas which promote and develop economic activity. Just as important, the Canadian Jobs Strategy also recognizes the needs of business and industry. In fact, the strategy is a bridge between job training and the skill requirements of the market-place, bringing them together. We have discontinued old, ineffective programs. We have eliminated slush-fund spending, and we have introduced new innovative and effective programs to stimulate long-term job creation and training.

I am pleased to report that to date, in a period of six months, more than 14,000 projects are under way under the Canadian Jobs Strategy, projects from one coast to another. I personally had the opportunity to visit a number of these projects. In Calgary, I saw disadvantaged young people learning a solid trade in the automotive industry. In Thorold, Ontario, I visited workers learning how to cope with and operate new technology so that they could keep their jobs and keep their plant productive and operating. In Peterborough, I watched young people being trained in the latest techniques of robotics. In Sherbrooke, Quebec, I talked with women who were receiving help in assessing their own skills and getting on-site experience in the labour market. The investment we are making in people through the Canadian Jobs Strategy is a very good example of how to "spend smart".

The Budget—Hon. F. MacDonald

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, the federal allocation of \$100 million for each of the next three years to help social assistance recipients is another example of money well spent. These funds are aimed at enhancing employment opportunities for social assistance recipients through the job development and job entry program that are part of the Canadian Jobs Strategy.

[*English*]

It is very much a part of the Government's program and its determination to find solutions to the economically and socially destructive cycle of welfare dependency and to work with the provinces in designing effective solutions to the problems faced by Canadians. It is smart spending because it starts from the premise that the very best assistance we can help provide is a meaningful job.

Money which would have otherwise been used solely for income support can now also be used to open doors into the workforce for people who were formerly or previously dependent solely upon welfare—doors which can lead, for them, to increased personal dignity. We are already experimenting with this kind of approach. These experiments are showing the benefits of such an approach because they are working. For instance, a good example is a job entry project in Saint John, New Brunswick, where the sponsor has committed 10 of the 30 training positions associated with this project to Canadians who were previously social assistance recipients.

In addition to the \$100 million being allocated by the federal Government for programs and projects of this nature—\$100 million which by the way is over and above the funding for the Canadian Jobs Strategy—we can also look forward to matching provincial dollars. That could double the potential funding available to assist social assistance recipients. This means that in the next three years up to \$600 million could be available for 120,000 new opportunities in jobs and training for those who need it most.

I should also like to mention that our commitment to assisting those in greatest need goes further. Other programs or measures have been undertaken in the Budget. We have announced new programs to help farmers and to help older workers. For farmers caught in the cycle of low prices and an intolerable debt burden, we are offering commodity-based mortgages, debt restructuring, tax breaks on fuel and other support. In addition, in cases where farmers must leave the farm to find other employment, a rural transition program is being put into effect which will provide farmers with job counselling, with retraining and with interim financial assistance. This is the first time that this group will be able to receive such support and be able to enter retraining programs. It means an additional commitment to farmers of some \$50 million over the next two years.

We have also introduced an additional program to address the problems of displaced older workers. Quite often, as we are all aware, older workers are those who are hardest hit by technological change, by industrial adjustment and by resource depletion. However, the usual training, wage subsidies, mobili-