

Adjournment Debate

The federal Government's own Department estimates that the benefits of improved management would create 100,000 new jobs, increase product sales by \$22 billion, increase exports by \$12 billion, and create additional tax revenues of \$3 billion. Therefore, the Commission recommended that federal initiatives in forestry job creation programs be continued and expanded.

While we believe that forest management work, silviculture and other activities should not be viewed as a source of low income employment, we do support any initiatives that result in improved management. I urge the Government not only to consider the question, but also to act now and bring in a long term program that will meet the needs of our young people and the needs of our forests.

Mr. Jesse P. Flis (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the Transport Committee was in the Province of British Columbia in August hearing various witnesses from the Government of British Columbia, the Mayors of British Columbia and representatives of the various industries, such as the forest industry. The one thing all of these witnesses told us was, "Get on with Bill C-155 because it means more jobs for British Columbia". This is why I fail to understand why the Hon. Member will stand up and say what he is saying tonight, yet daily oppose Bill C-155 which will create much needed jobs in the Province of British Columbia.

In putting on my other hat on behalf of the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Roberts), I would like to provide the Hon. Member for Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands (Mr. Manly) with a more detailed reply to the Hon. Member's questions raised in the House on September 28. The Hon. Member posed two questions. I will expand on the Minister's response to the question concerning the Government's initiative to help unemployed youth first, and then on the efforts being undertaken by the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission to help the unemployed forestry workers.

In the past few weeks, the Minister has announced several initiatives to help unemployed youth. The consolidated direct

job creation program announced on September 12, 1983, has a major thrust directed toward providing opportunities for young people to learn, develop and practice the skills necessary to enter into and remain in the labour market. The Job Corps and Career Access Programs are geared to offer this kind of assistance to young people.

The Canada Works Program, and the Local Employment Assistance and Development Program, known as the LEAD Program, will also provide many young people with employment opportunities to gain valuable work experience. Including the recent Summer Initiatives, CEIC will spend approximately \$474.1 million this fiscal year to provide 179,200 youth with work experience.

The Hon. Member also had a question concerning initiatives to help forestry workers, especially in British Columbia. As the Minister stated, the Employment Bridging Assistance Program, which was a joint federal-provincial initiative, was seriously jeopardized by the British Columbia Government's decision to withdraw funding. Although provincial funding ceased on June 30, 1983, the federal Government, through CEIC, made up the provincial shortfall and continued support for the forestry projects for another three months.

The EBAP was designed to provide term employment to unemployed forestry workers to maintain their skills and livelihood during the recession. Funding for the program was providing through provisions of Section 38 of the Unemployment Insurance Act.

I see that Your Honour is giving me the signal to close. I would just like to close on this note, by telling the Hon. Member that if he is really serious about creating jobs in British Columbia then he should get up on his feet and be counted in support of Bill C-155.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The motion to adjourn the House is now deemed to have been adopted.

Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow morning at eleven o'clock.

At 6.30 p.m., the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.