

*National Training Act*

jobs are not available. The number may be fewer than the 30,000 the minister said were needed, but 20,000 jobs could nevertheless be filled by Canadians. It is not as if this were something new. It is not as if all of a sudden we discovered we needed skilled engineers, skilled mechanics, industrial mechanics and people in a number of other professions and trades. We have known that for years. If we do not have co-operation between the provincial governments and the federal government, we will never train the people we need. As the spokesman in my party for federal-provincial relations I feel it is unfortunate that I must point out that this is another example of the federal government's having made no serious attempt to talk with the provincial governments in an effort to come up with a training scheme which would meet the needs of each and every one of our provinces and the needs of the nation as a whole and make sure our young people are trained for the jobs we need.

You know, Mr. Speaker, as do most Canadians, that a large number of young people are unemployed in this country. The latest statistics indicate that over 20 per cent of the young people in Canada do not have jobs. Those same statistics indicate that a majority of young people are not getting the kind of training they need to do the jobs which are available.

The minister's statement of last year is just an indication of the problem. Why in the name of this country should we have to import 20,000, 25,000 or 30,000 people for western Canada alone? After all the dollars the Canadian government and the provincial governments have put into occupational training, why should we have to import that number of people to meet the demand for trained, skilled people? Our unemployment rate grows every day; we all know that. The unemployment rates among the young, women, natives and the handicapped are so high that it is obvious the Canadian government should be acting. What we need is a bill to meet that need, a bill that is shared by and agreed upon by the provincial governments and the federal government. But the bill before us tonight represents just another step taken by this Liberal government. It ignores the real need of Canadians.

● (2020)

Let me give an example of this, Mr. Speaker. Two years ago in its budget the government set up a Western Development Fund. That fund was supposed to provide jobs for western Canada and to provide development for western Canada. But nothing happened, Mr. Speaker. One year later the same government and the same Minister of Finance (Mr. MacEachen) announced in the budget of November 12 that the Western Development Fund would receive only half the money that had been allotted to it in the previous budget. I should remind hon. members that not one cent of that money was spent between the fall of 1980 and the fall of 1981. It was a big budget item of \$4 billion but not one cent of the money was spent. In the budget in the fall of 1981 there was a rehash of the announcement but with only half as much money. The money was supposed to create development in western Canada and, presumably, to provide the jobs that people would need.

We were told that a certain amount of the money would be allocated to the province of jobs for native people. But now, some seven months later, there are no funds, there is no agreement and there are no programs. In one year the amount was reduced from \$4 billion to \$2 billion, and in the seven months following that nothing happened.

Tonight we have before us a training bill which deals with native unemployment and the problems that affect Canada as a whole. All I can say is that if there was a budgetary item over a year and a half ago providing for \$4 billion and then the same budgetary item was reduced to \$2 billion in the budget of last November 12, the fact that the bill before us today supports to do certain things in the area of training does not impress me. Let us see the specific programs for once. Let the parliamentary secretary explain that when he gets up to speak. We want to see the specific programs that prove the government is committed to providing jobs for native people.

I had the opportunity to study political science under the Minister of Employment and Immigration when he was a professor, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. LeBlanc:** Even teachers make mistakes!

**Mr. Murphy:** I agree with the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. LeBlanc)—even the minister makes mistakes! His mistake was not in picking his students but in saying that the government is responsible for providing leadership. Leadership is not speeches, it is not press releases, it is not announcing a program that is not fulfilled. Leadership is providing the economic direction, the regulations, the programs to fulfil what a government promises. We have not had that, Mr. Speaker. Thirty per cent of the population of my riding of Churchill are native people, Mr. Speaker. Amongst the native population the unemployment rate is probably over 80 per cent. This bill and last year's budget and the budget before that were full of promises, but what does all that mean? Is the government really offering a new program or is this just another program in which it promises so much and delivers so little?

The native people in my riding, the young people in my riding whether white or native, want a training program that will provide them with jobs and with some hope in the future. I do not want to make a long speech, Mr. Speaker, but if this program had any substance at all, then the minister would speak about it. If this program offered something worthwhile to the nation as a whole the minister would have negotiated with his provincial counterparts to make sure that everyone works for the same objective. If this program were worthwhile, the minister would get up in the House and explain what the future holds for Canadians.

I believe, as I am sure many people do, especially the unemployed, that the government is bankrupt of plans. There are all these programs the government talks about, such as the Western Development Fund and a new program announced today, but again there are no specific plans for fulfilling them. We recognize that there are problems all over the world and