

S. O. 21

EMPLOYMENT

COMMUNITY FUTURES PROGRAM—CREATION OF JOBS

Mr. Elliott Hardey (Kent): Mr. Speaker, it is time this House recognized and applauded the Government's initiative in offering assistance to hundreds of communities across Canada by way of the Community Futures Program.

My riding of Kent in southwestern Ontario has now moved into the final stages of the Community Futures initiative. The excitement that comes with successful, locally administered assistance is overwhelming. New businesses that bring permanent jobs is only the beginning. We estimate \$1.6 million of federal money will be pumped into Kent as new ideas to improve the local economy are considered each month by the operating committee. At that point the program will likely fly on its own as it continues to create new jobs and self-respect for my constituents.

As well, there have been megaprojects approved in communities across Canada under this program which have accessed funds up to \$5 million. With this kind of incentive, and people helping people, existing businesses will expand and welfare rolls will begin to diminish. The five-point program of the Community Futures initiative covers all these areas.

To the Government, and especially to the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Bouchard), the riding of Kent says: "Thank you!" This is one government job-creation program that works.

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HARBOURS AND PORTS

REPAIRS NEEDED FOR PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND WHARFS

Mr. George Henderson (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, I rise again to bring attention to the worsening state of our harbours and wharfs. The Conservative Government has already slashed some \$10 million from its Small Craft Harbours budget. In fact, on May 12, 1987, the Deputy Minister of Fisheries and Oceans informed the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans that over the next five years some 150 wharfs and harbours in Canada could be closed due to a shortage of funds. This includes some 13 fishing ports in Prince Edward Island.

In Tignish, many fishermen have requested the federal Government to undertake some badly needed wharf repairs at Tignish Run. Both the north side and the south side wharfs are in deplorable shape. The old wooden structures have rotted and the concrete decks have collapsed. We cannot ignore this urgent request.

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Dependable and well-maintained wharfs are absolutely essential to our communities. We must not only avoid disruption in fishing time but, more important, we must not jeopardize the health and safety of our fishermen.

I urge the Government to allocate these funds immediately.

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CANADIAN JOBS STRATEGY

PROGRAM TO HELP NORTHWEST TERRITORIES SOCIAL ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS

Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic): Mr. Speaker, it is shameful that a large proportion of welfare recipients are employable people. Individuals suffer from lack of both income and self-esteem, and the nation from loss of productivity.

To address this problem, the federal, provincial and territorial Ministers, in September of 1985, reached the Agreement on Enhancing the Employability of Social Assistance Recipients.

The Governments of Canada and the Northwest Territories are to be complimented on putting into effect this year one of the first accords reached under that master agreement.

The diversion of Canada Assistance Plan funds into job training and development under the Canadian Jobs Strategy is something that we expect to pay dividends by permanently reducing the welfare rolls and creating a better life for hundreds of former welfare recipients.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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TAX REFORM

WHITE PAPER—TREATMENT OF PREFERRED SHARES

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) promised Canadians a fair tax system. However, financial holding companies, such as Brascan, which was created to minimize the tax liabilities of the Bronfman empire, have created paper corporate structures for the purpose of issuing preferred shares on whose dividends there are no taxes payable.

Surely this kind of corporate tax avoidance should have been a perfect target for tax reform by the Minister of Finance. But did the Minister consider the dangerous levels of corporate concentration financed by tax-free preferred shares? No.

Did he crack down on Brascan and Hees International for using the public purse to create paper companies to avoid taxation? No.