

Unemployment Insurance Act

program at this particular time. These include retraining programs, job-finding clubs and an expanded self-employment incentive option within the community's futures program.

The Labour Market Development Strategy proposes to increase current services to displaced older workers by \$100 million. The continuing employment option may receive an additional \$40 million to provide up to three years support to employers who hire and retrain displaced workers. Some \$50 million will finance skills training and educational upgrading through Section 26 of the UI Act in co-operation with the provinces.

Other avenues of assistance include the IAS, re-employment incentive pilot projects which subsidize early re-employment at lower wage rates, and Labour Canada's POWA program. In addition, older workers will be targeted for self employment and mobility assistance.

Currently, self-employment and entrepreneurship are supported mainly through community futures, a Canadian Jobs Strategy Program. This program is active in more than 200 non-metropolitan communities across Canada. Participating communities have access to business development centres, which provide technical advisory services to small businesses, and which can also fund loans of up to \$75,000; and the self-employment incentive option, which gives unemployed persons who are trying to become self-employed \$180 a week for up to a year, in lieu of social assistance or unemployment insurance.

Current mobility assistance is also provided through the Canadian Jobs Strategy. Workers who are in danger of losing their jobs or who have already lost their jobs because of technological or market changes can collect up to \$5,000 to aid in relocation.

In 1988-89, as of January 28, 1989, 4,308 workers received assistance for a total cost of about \$6,369,000.

Earlier, the Hon. Member for London East (Mr. Fontana) suggested that 2 per cent of UI payments are voluntary quitters without just cause. He implied that this is an insignificant matter. However, the cost to the UI account annually of voluntary quitters without just

cause is \$1.1 billion. That is 10 per cent of the entire UI account.

The Liberal Party of Canada calls \$1.1 billion insignificant, but Members on this side of the House have more respect for the taxpayers of Canada.

Mr. Dan Heap (Trinity—Spadina): Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to have a chance to speak, for what time is available to me, against Bill C-21, this Bill to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act and the Employment and Immigration Department and Commission Act. In fact, this Bill will do great harm to working people in Canada. It is a Bill which is important to the people of Trinity—Spadina in Toronto.

Some people have said that unemployment is low in Toronto. However, that is of course according to Statistics Canada which in fact leave out certain blind spots. They do not count the homeless, of which we have many in Toronto, because they are not at home to be telephoned by the pollsters to find out whether they have been looking for work that week. They do not count many of the people who have given up looking for work there. They do not count many of the under-employed or unemployed housewives who are not qualified to be called unemployed statistically. They do not count those who are seriously underpaid, particularly in the immigrant communities. They do not count the illegal immigrants who of course are punished for being illegal by being underpaid if they are able to work, but who are nevertheless considered very useful by many of the employers in Spadina. They do not count those who are hindered from working, and perhaps even from being counted statistically for lack of the English or French language. They do not count the fact that unemployed are quickly expelled from Trinity—Spadina and from downtown Toronto by the extraordinarily high cost of housing there. It is very difficult for an unemployed person to live in downtown Toronto, even if on unemployment insurance. We have all those people in Trinity—Spadina.

We also a few years ago had the story of a local junk dealer with his horse who used to make a small living for himself and the horse by collecting junk to sell it. The price of food and oats went up faster than the price of junk. He had to start cutting back a few grains a day on the horse's oats until one day he gave him no oats at all.