

Supply

subject in the House, and I am referring to training. Employers today, faced with problems caused by the economic situation in general, can hardly afford to give any sort of priority to this group of workers. Because of wage agreements which do not always provide for a probationary period for young employees, employers demand a fairly high production rate. This creates feeling of dissatisfaction on both sides when the young employee decides to leave and the employer is disappointed once more after investing time and money in training a young employee who will never give him a return on his investment. Mr. Speaker, the members for central and eastern Montreal are therefore in favour of emphasizing programs that promote the integration of young people in the regular labour market, in other words, the private sector, without making undue demands on the finances of these businesses which are presently experiencing very difficult times. We were not as specific in our letter, but today I felt it was important to specify the kind of measures we had in mind when we wrote to the Right Hon. Prime Minister. We are convinced that the members opposite will make the needs of their constituencies known and that this opposition day will be constructive for Canada as a whole.

In this context, we urge our colleagues opposite to speed up current business, as requested earlier by the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Cosgrove), including Bill C-89, which will help create 70,000 jobs that will not only be welcome in our constituencies but will also give the impetus needed by the building industry in Quebec. Let us keep in mind that this bill which is now before Parliament was announced in the November budget and that our constituents want to see it implemented as quickly as possible. It provides, for instance, \$150 million for 1982-83 and \$200 million for 1983-84. I believe that we can expect this bill to be passed in the near future. Thus, the Canadian government will be able to finance 40,000 more rental units in 1982, including 25,000 units under the non-profit and co-operative housing programs, which provide housing for low and medium-income renters. This means accessible housing for the people of the eastern Montreal constituencies as a whole.

Moreover, the Canada Rental Supply Plan will finance an additional 15,000 units to prevent an even greater shortage of rental housing. Bill C-89 will play a major role in providing these 15,000 units by enabling, for instance, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to insure more substantial loans for rental housing. This has become a serious problem and our colleagues opposite can help us to solve this problem in the near future by agreeing to expedite House business.

No one on this side can deny that we are going through one of the most difficult periods since the war. However, all economists, whether Liberal, Conservative or New Democrat, all agree that inflation must be checked if interest rates are to go down. In fact, Statistics Canada figures for this month are encouraging. The cost of living has dropped and the annual average is improving. This is good news for our constituents who have also done their share in improving our economy.

However, without being overly optimistic, I venture to think that these are the early signs of an upturn and of the impact of the MacEachen budget, and I hope that the unemployment rate will soon decrease with the implementation of Bill C-89. We must recognize that Quebec and the eastern provinces are more affected by unemployment than the others. As Members of Parliament for Quebec, we have an even bigger job than others if we want to regain the confidence of investors.

The Parti Québécois convention which was held last week can only make matters worse. During that convention, it was decided that the next step for Quebec was independence, and I believe that this period of uncertainty for Quebecers will become more serious, last longer and create problems for investors who have lost confidence in Quebec's future. Moreover, the poor Quebecers are the most heavily taxed in Canada, and even in the world, because if we look at the tax rates in other countries, we can see that Quebec has the sad distinction of holding the record for high taxes, among other records. In my opinion, at this time, instead of creating conflicts by ignoring each other—I believe that it was a good sign this week for the people of the provincial government to come and visit the federal government—we should consolidate our relations with Quebec and initiate a positive dialogue.

As housing comes under provincial jurisdiction, I believe that the role of the Canadian government can only be a regulatory one. It is therefore important to work in harmony with provincial and local agencies. In fact, the hon. members representing the central eastern part of Montreal will meet officials from the various levels of government, including the Urban Community of Montreal, the municipalities and all the economic agents from eastern Montreal, in the near future to discuss the federal programs which are available to them at the present time. We are now at the organizing stage and I am happy to report that my colleagues and I are now taking steps to meet all the people concerned in our area in order to make available to them the funds obtained from the federal government. It is my view, Mr. Speaker, that any member of Parliament has the duty to ensure that information, the benefits of government programs have a positive impact in his or her constituency.

To conclude, Mr. Speaker, I would like to repeat for the benefit of my colleagues opposite that our concept of the role of a Member of Parliament is much more dynamic and positive than theirs. Members of the opposition are repeatedly suggesting that we never say a word about government policies, but a few minutes ago, the same members also suggested that government policy was to muzzle Members of Parliament. This party includes members who will support it. We are also convinced that it will react positively to the proposals we made to the Prime Minister.

I therefore thank the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) once again for having given us, members of the Liberal Party, an opportunity to discuss a problem that concerns each and everyone of us. And if he is looking for suggestions for his next motion, Mr. Speaker, we are quite ready to co-operate with