

*Borrowing Authority*

constant communication with our communities. In other words, we would listen before we would act. We are doing what we promised, that is, getting involved in consultation, meeting with municipalities and the different constituents who elected us. I feel people are quite happy to participate in this type of change and they want to have input.

If we did nothing and caused no change then, of course, by the year 1990 we would be looking at scandalous deficits and at unemployment perhaps getting even worse. It is very, very difficult to have to continue to finance debt charges. My own feeling is that whatever we are asking here is very legitimate. It is necessary to continue the orderly progression which has already begun. I take pleasure in rising to support it.

● (1440)

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Robinson:** The Hon. Member for Dollard (Mr. Weiner) spoke about the concerns of his constituents in terms of job creation and the fact that a very large number of them were out of work. I am sure a significant number of families in his constituency have children who are students in post-secondary educational institutions. How can the Hon. Member possibly justify the decision of his Government to eliminate the Summer Canada Program for student employment?

**Mr. Weiner:** Mr. Speaker, we have just come into a period now where we have implemented the Canada Works program. We know that the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Miss MacDonald) is looking at other aspects of what we would consider to be more long-term programming. Those of us who have worked in the municipal sector are especially fed up with the type of programming which previous governments have given us. They were piecemeal and offered only little bones for very short periods of time. There was no concern for whether there was a need for the program in the community. I am thinking of a particular drop-in centre which was allowed to be funded. They never came to the municipality to ask whether it was required. They allowed this particular project to be set up for a very short period of time. When the project wound down or when the funding wound down, they then came to the municipality expecting support. I think this is the time to reflect and to think seriously of job-creation programs which are not for six to twelve weeks. We need ways of putting people back to work for three to five years.

**Mr. Robinson:** What about Summer Canada?

**Mr. Weiner:** The student program is of particular interest. I have two children who fit into that category. I am very hopeful that the Minister in this particular period will find a program which can be of a long-term nature and would suit the needs to which the Hon. Member referred.

**Mr. Rodriguez:** The Hon. Member for Dollard (Mr. Weiner) mentioned high unemployment in his riding. How does he justify the initiatives of the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Miss MacDonald) which chopped \$200 million from the unemployment insurance fund? The means by

which she will do that is the hiring of 700 investigators to disentitle claimants. How can the Hon. Member justify his concern for his constituents with the direction the Government has taken?

**Mr. Weiner:** By hiring 700 people, I think we are already taking 700 people off the unemployment rolls. I have seen nothing to indicate that there is not a strong need to tighten up the entire bureaucratic structure by which the employment operation is being managed. There have been far too many abuses, far too many examples of individuals—

**An Hon. Member:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Weiner:** —who have not been able to find jobs in particular sectors and have been unwilling to move into any other area of endeavour. I think it has to be part of a comprehensive program. I think the Hon. Member is taking something out of context. When a program is put into place, it has to be one where we can direct and retrain the individual. There is no point in having a person on the unemployment rolls and forcing him to go on welfare before being prepared to put him through a retraining process.

The knowledge we have acquired which is more than five to eight years old is antiquated. Some 10 years from now most of the workforce will have to be completely retrained. We have an excellent opportunity right now to put into effect programs for the unemployed which will put them back to work in a very honest way.

**Mr. Prud'homme:** Mr. Speaker, in answer to a question by the Hon. Member for Burnaby (Mr. Robinson) concerning the student program next summer—and I listened attentively to what he said—the Hon. Member said that he was sorry to a certain degree that this was announced but that he was sure the Minister would find a summer program. I may agree with him that perhaps some part-time jobs may not be the best. For those who have none, they may be the best. However, summer jobs are part-time. Why should we worry hundreds of thousands of young people who are already preparing themselves for summer employment? Usually good, young Canadians start preparing themselves now. I do not mean to be politically partisan, but it worries me because many young people used to start preparing themselves now for the coming summer. The Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Weiner) indicated that he hoped the Minister would do something. Why cancel a program only to announce something which would be totally similar?

Since the Member and I share Ville Saint Laurent, I ask him on behalf of millions of people to stop referring to non-francophones and non-anglophones as ethnic. If my name was "Prud'homme'ski", as I have been saying for 20 years, I would be fed up with hearing francophones and anglophones talking about ethnics. He referred to his district, which is similar to mine, as having close to 39 ethnic groups. I do not know where he fits in, by the way, but as far as I am concerned, I think there are only two kinds of Canadians—the Canadians who are Canadian citizens and the landed immi-