

Adjournment Debate

July, 1982 were 49,299. In July, 1983, there were 57,504 beneficiaries, an increase of 17 per cent.

● (1820)

Let us look at the Yorkton region, Mr. Speaker. A year ago the figure was 1,495 and this year it is 2,017, an increase of 35 per cent. Tory times are tough times for poor people.

Across the Province as a whole there has been an increase of 17 per cent. The Tories have been in power for a year and a half. If we go back to July 1981 we see that 39,494 people were on welfare, and now there are 57,504, an increase of 46 per cent. Since the Conservative Government took office in May, 1982 there has been an increase of 18 per cent in welfare, 19 per cent in the total case load and 51 per cent in the unemployed employable cases in Saskatchewan.

Tory times are tough times indeed. There have been 207 business bankruptcies in Saskatchewan thus far in 1983, compared to 184 in the same period in 1982. Since the Conservatives took office in May, 1982, there have been 388 business bankruptcies in Saskatchewan. Thus far in 1983 there have been 29 farm bankruptcies in the Province compared to 24 for all of 1982.

Although there were only 19,000 more employed people in Saskatchewan in August, 1983, than in August, 1982, there was no increase in employment of young people between the ages of 15 and 24. Statistics Canada reports that there were 33,000 more persons unemployed in August than in July, and 4,000 more than in August, 1982. Statistics Canada also reports that the unemployment rate for Saskatoon in August was 10 per cent.

I see that my time is almost up, Mr. Speaker. Despite the insensitivity and the total betrayal of the Premier of Saskatchewan of the people of the Province, I have asked the federal Government to come up with special projects for the Province. The Minister or someone should meet with the Premier and try to hammer some sense into his head. We need special projects so the Province can be part of any recovery there might be in the country as a whole.

There is a lot of wealth and resources in Saskatchewan. It strikes me as ironic that Saskatchewan and Alberta are the only two Provinces where unemployment has increased in the last year. It has gone down in the rest of the country. It is a disgrace that unemployment has increased by 82 per cent in one year of Tory rule. I expect some action from the federal Government. I hope it does not hide behind the skirts of Grant Devine.

Mr. Jean-Guy Dubois (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Employment and Immigration): I am quite sure that the Hon. Member will send that speech out in the next Householder to his riding, and perhaps even to other ridings to show what is going on in Saskatchewan.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister, I am pleased to advise the member for Yorkton-Melville (Mr. Nystrom) and his fellow Members from Saskatchewan of the measures introduced by the federal Government to create jobs in that province. As the Minister stated previously in the House on October 7 of this year, there has been a considerable improvement in the employment picture across the country. The Government realizes that as a result of regional factors, some areas in Canada will not be able to benefit immediately from this fact, and that is why the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission has recently consolidated its various job creation programs into four major programs. One of these, Canada Works, is primarily aimed at quickly creating temporary jobs at times when the economy is slack or the labour market is temporarily disturbed. It applies, for instance, to temporary or permanent shutdowns of plants or industries. Over \$5.8 million was earmarked for Saskatchewan under this program to create new jobs during the current and coming financial year. If we add the programs now included under Canada Works, job creation projects will receive a total of \$20.8 million during the current and coming financial year in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister mentioned previously in the House the need for further involvement of the private sector in our job creation projects. This strategy will help us meet our regional priorities. The Local Employment Assistance and Development program (LEAD) provides funding to create LEAD corporations, whose purpose is to promote the creation of new businesses or expansion of existing ones. This year and next year, \$5.3 million will be spent in Saskatchewan under this program. The recent recession, coupled with rapidly changing technologies, has shown that many Canadians lack the experience, skills and training they need to meet the requirements of industry. The Career Access and Job Corps programs will assist them in this respect. Career Access will help employers provide employment opportunities by subsidizing wages for individuals who experience great difficulty in finding employment. The Job Corps will be used to finance businesses, organizations, communities and individuals who create full-time jobs for those experiencing serious problems in finding employment.

These programs are therefore aimed at developing basic skills that will help integrate these people in the labour market. Funding for Career Access has been set at \$8.2 million, while \$2.6 million has been earmarked for the Job Corps in Saskatchewan for 1983-84 and 1985-86.

Mr. Speaker, a total of \$36.8 million will be spent on job creation in Saskatchewan during the current and coming year. I am sure the Hon. Member will agree that by creating