

Oral Questions

Immigration. The Minister acknowledged in the House yesterday that the money included in the budget with reference to direct job-creation programs will create employment for fewer than one-sixteenth of the approximate two million men and women who are out of work in Canada right now. Outside the House he admitted that he included among these jobs the raking of leaves for one week. When the Government is so willing to do so little for the one out of sixteen people who will get a job, what is the Minister saying to the more than one million Canadians who will not benefit at all from any of these programs?

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, I thank the Hon. Leader of the New Democratic Party for the opportunity to correct what was a very blatant misrepresentation in a story which has appeared. At no time did I ever say that. In fact that was a question posed by the particular reporter, which I rejected out of hand. I pointed out that in fact the job-creation programs which we put into place were designed to work in particular with communities and municipalities which wanted to start major projects of sewage or community services. A large proportion of the uptake in the NEED Program is by private sector firms which are modernizing their plant, extending their facilities, and therefore creating the foundation for long-term permanent jobs.

We are saying that the direct employment program over the next two years will provide over 300,000 jobs with the money provided by the Minister of Finance. The funds are to be used for bridging and transition programs to help those people most severely in need, while the private economy, being stimulated through the budget, will provide the longer-term work.

We have always said that the job problem is not subject to one simple solution, although the New Democratic Party seems to believe that. It must be attacked in a comprehensive manner with a wide variety of strategies, each trying to pinpoint and target a different set of needs. That is the kind of strategy we are adopting. It is a realistic one, not a rhetorical one.

● (1430)

Mr. Broadbent: The realistic one does include, in the Minister's own words, creating jobs. On the average these jobs, as a result of these programs, last only two months. Including what he said today, the average percentage affected, the number affected, still comes to about one-sixteenth of the total in terms of aid.

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THE BUDGET**ALLOCATION OF FUNDS TO CREATE JOBS**

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Madam Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Finance a related question on the matter of the need for more short term jobs. We learned recently that the Government is prepared to consider using

taxpayers' money to bail out the Canadair Corporation to the extent of \$2.3 billion. In the budget, in the two programs that involve direct job creation, the Government is prepared to allocate less than one half of that, namely \$1 billion. Does the Minister really think that allocating \$1 billion, less than one half of the Canadair total, to all of the other companies in all of the other parts of Canada for job creation, really meets the human and economic need of the country at this time?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member refers to a figure for Canadair that I have not seen. That is not being considered by me at the present time.

REQUEST FOR INCREASE IN FUNDS TO CREATE JOBS

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Madam Speaker, the Prime Minister, who is just five or six seats to the left of the Minister, referred to the serious situation faced by Canadair recently and acknowledged that the Government had before it a comprehensive set of figures that we would love to see publicly released. I know the Minister is always a little late with his figures. The rest of us have seen the figure of over \$2 billion. That aside, I will ask the Minister this question.

Last fall, speaking at his Party's convention, the Prime Minister said that all across this land of ours there are roads to be built, sewers to be constructed, and municipal facilities of kinds which are needed, and rather than people collecting welfare or Unemployment Insurance, they should be put to work doing these things. I ask the Minister of Finance why, in heaven's name, given the human need for people to get satisfaction from working, the Government is not allocating more money to put more Canadians back to work on the kinds of projects his own Prime Minister suggested a few months ago.

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, the Leader of the New Democratic Party alleged that the Government was ready to pour \$2.3 billion into Canadair. I told him I had never seen that figure or seen such a recommendation. This is what I told him. I remind him that thousands of Canadian workers are involved. This is not some place on another planet. It is in Canada. They are members of unions which, I am sure, my hon. friend would like to see kept at work. We are talking about actual jobs and actual Canadians in an industry that is important for Canada. I am surprised that my hon. friend seems to be so indifferent to that.

Leaving that aside, as far as the Government is concerned, we are indeed supportive of all of this. The fact is, under the NEED program, as the Minister of Employment and Immigration indicated, we are putting in additional funds. We are spending in the course of this current fiscal year \$900 million more in direct job creation over last year. Canada will have the largest direct employment program in its history in 1983-84. Third, a number of Provinces are going ahead with their own programs of stimulation in terms of capital investment similar to what the federal Government announced on Tuesday. Some have already announced programs. I said I was hopeful that