

The extra \$20 million for Summer Canada will bring total funding for student programs to \$120 million. It will allow communities to provide increased opportunities for young people to get the kind of labour market experience that will enhance their future job prospects.

The \$188 million in training funds will be spent under the authority of a new National Training Act which the Minister of Employment and Immigration plans to introduce when Parliament resumes.

May I thank honourable senators for their indulgence in permitting such a long statement to be read in the chamber when all honourable senators by now have received copies of this document.

In this regard, I suggest it is fortunate that at least one chamber of Parliament is operating.

Hon. Richard A. Donahoe: Don't say it; don't say it!

Senator Perrault: I welcome the fact that members of the opposition are here and are able to exercise their democratic and parliamentary right to respond, if they desire, to this statement. That is all I wanted to say.

[Translation]

Hon. Jacques Flynn (Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, we are, of course, very pleased with the statement made by the Leader of the Government and the initiatives he has announced on behalf of the Minister of Employment and Immigration, the Honourable Lloyd Axworthy. It is also clear that the statement was made in lieu of tabling the bill in the House of Commons. In circumstances other than those prevailing at the present time in the other place, the Minister of Employment and Immigration would merely have tabled the bill and, at second reading, would have made the speech just read by the Leader of the Government. This is perfectly acceptable.

However, I feel there are some fuzzy areas. It is not clear whether any of the \$280 million or \$188 million or \$20 million which are mentioned here and there in the speech are additional funds which were not included in the regular budget. It seems they are additional funds. It is difficult to make any judgment on this situation or at least on what has been announced, before examining the bill itself.

The government is to be congratulated for whatever positive impact the bill may have, subject to consideration of the bill when it is tabled. I may point out that consideration of this type of bill cannot be initiated here. It seems the Leader of the Government has been unable, within the past ten days, to find any bills he could table in the Senate to keep us busy while the House of Commons is otherwise engaged.

Hon. Louis-J. Robichaud: They are on strike.

Senator Flynn: Senator Robichaud is perfectly free to say anything he likes, but the members of the other place must be the judge of their own actions. Filibusters are hardly more useful than what is happening at the present time. It is just a way of attracting the public's attention to what the govern-

ment is doing. However, I do not want to start a debate on this question.

Senator Robichaud: It would be a waste of time.

Senator Flynn: I merely wish to say, Senator Robichaud, that the Leader of the Government had told us he would consider the feasibility of initiating bills in the Senate, following an unusual suggestion made by Senator Bosa some time ago. But, as I already said, there are none. Meanwhile, we are being kept busy with statements like the one we just heard. We have been told that legislation specifically concerning the plans announced by the Minister of Employment and Immigration will be introduced in the other place. I think we should wait and see what the bill is like in order to have a more realistic and practical basis on which to judge.

• (1420)

[English]

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of State for Economic Development): We have the authority to do that now.

Senator Flynn: Not here. It is a money bill, but if you do not need a bill, that is another thing. I am taking the announcement as it was recited by the Leader of the Government. If the Honourable Minister of State for Economic Development—

Senator Olson: "and Regional".

Senator Flynn: No, not "Regional". That is not yet official, and I again suggest that the title is wrong and should be corrected.

If the honourable minister would read what has just been announced, he will find that the last paragraph states:

The \$188 million in training funds will be spent under the authority of a new National Training Act which [Mr. Axworthy] plans to introduce when Parliament resumes.

Senator Olson: I take it all back.

Senator Flynn: Thank you.

Senator Perrault: I thank the Honourable Leader of the Opposition for his statement with respect to the proposal and the generally supportive nature of his remarks. May I encourage him to use his demonstrated persuasive skills to convince his Conservative colleagues in the other place to go back to work so that we may get the bill under way in Parliament?

Senator Donahoe: Cut that out!

Senator Flynn: I could not repay that compliment to the Leader of the Government. I am quite sure that even if he used all his talents he would not be able to persuade the government to make the proper concession.

Hon. John M. Godfrey: Honourable senators, I should like to ask the Leader of the Government whether there is any reason why this bill cannot be published at this time and, by means of a motion in the Senate, referred to a Senate committee for study.

• (1425)

Senator Flynn: That is a difficult problem.