

income of these Indian farmers from \$3,500 to \$15,600. It raised total Indian farm income from \$1.25 million to \$5 million. Up to 500 Indians were trained for secondary industry, and improved economic conditions increased their social uplift.

● (1710)

Now, Mr. Speaker, what was the cost of such a program which had these benefits? Total federal investment, apart from loans, was \$51,428 per farm. Total federal investment, development costs were \$36,425 per farm. Total farmer investment was \$33,200 per farm. Federal development investment broken down on a per man-year basis was \$28,032, and per job \$12,142. If you compare that with other job creation programs and I think hon. members will find the comparison not only favourable but probably rather outstanding.

Another program of benefit to Manitoba is the wild fur program. Under this program there are increased returns through improved production and marketing by 3,000 trappers, 1,700 of whom are Indians. The program improved trapper income from \$850 per season to \$2,850 per season. It raised total trapper income from \$1.3 million to \$5 million. The investment involved: federal investment per trapper was \$820; provincial investment per trapper was the same; and trapper investment was \$1,367.

While still on the subject of successes may I take a moment to talk about the Indian arts and crafts industry. In 1969 the Canadian Indian was faced with many difficulties in becoming economically viable. Some of the major areas of concern at that time were the following: firstly, as a result of their remoteness from major markets, poor prices, shortages of raw materials and the lack of working capital, many Indian craftsmen experienced difficulties in marketing their crafts, and many other Indian people who would produce did not do so. Secondly, problems exist with respect to consistency of quality control, product design and style, raw material usage and various forms of production methods. Thirdly, the arts and crafts industry, on a national scale, has just been organized. However, further organizational development was required to provide a broader based marketing and management information system. Lastly, despite their interest and pride in crafts, craftsmen and artists did not receive enough in return for their work.

In 1970 the Indian arts and crafts program was formulated as a result of a departmental review of arts and crafts activities and it began to improve in a significant way. The development of Indian arts and crafts has responded positively to the department's approach of joint participation. Once again, the department did not simply develop a program and impose it upon the people; it came through consultation and many joint discussions. In the spirit of this approach, management of Indian arts and crafts has been progressively transferred to Indian ownership.

Success in the arts and crafts program has been largely the result of the enthusiastic commitment and innovative management of the National Indian Arts and Crafts Corporation and

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its ten member Indian arts and crafts organizations representing Indian artists and craftsmen across Canada in nine provinces and one territory. In a speech on April 26, 1977, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Allmand) announced that the Indian arts and crafts program will be imminently transferred to the management and operation of the National Indian Arts and Crafts Corporation.

During the course of my brief comments I have made reference to government consultation with Indian people. Hon. members should be advised that the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development has adopted a joint working relationship with Indian leaders, with Indian organizations, and with Indian people. This has the endorsement of cabinet and it is, at least, a beginning and a recognition of the need to involve Indian people in initiating policies and planning programs which will ultimately affect their lives. At the political level there has been since 1974 a joint National Indian Brotherhood-cabinet committee where Indian people and government can discuss and reach a consensus on problems and solutions.

With regard to today's debate on Indian economic development, the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development has a number of task forces working with the National Indian Brotherhood in connection with this program. As a result of these consultations, this joint endeavour, there will be some improvements and changes made. In the economic development program there will be better control mechanisms developed, administrative procedures will be improved, and there will be some accepted guidelines established to minimize, though certainly not eliminate, the possibility of failure. I say that because some mistakes will continue to be made in the future. Therefore we know by being courageous enough to carry on with a program like this, by being willing to take the necessary risks we will be opening the door to the kind of excessive criticism of our program which we have heard during the course of today's debate.

There will be other projects which will fail in the future, no doubt, but we will not be deterred from working with the Indian people to create jobs and to help them achieve an economic base which can sustain them at a reasonable standard of living according to the accepted value system in this country.

Mr. Cecil Smith (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, as the member of parliament for the Churchill constituency representing a large Indian population in northern Manitoba you have heard me speak many times of the plight of the Indian people. Being a neighbour to these people for many years, I have witnessed first hand the many hardships that they face.

The 30 Indian bands in the Churchill riding are characteristic of the national Indian scene. Despite great efforts on the part of Indian leaders over the last decade, 1976 Canadian statistics report that the unemployment rate of Indians is 50 per cent to 60 per cent, the welfare rate is over 50 per cent, average income per family is \$1,500, and the infant mortality rate is 2.6 times greater than for the general population. With statistics such as these we must question what the Canadian