

time to set them up, and in many cases, by providing temporary employment, these projects have made it possible to protect long term jobs and create others.

● (1710)

That is why \$280 million will be injected into this program over the next two years, which will necessarily have beneficial effects on the Canadian economy as a whole, and most important, a direct effect on unemployment. The NEED Program is the result of merging the program in existence since October with all the job-creation programs established under Section 38 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, which were also very successful throughout the country, especially in my own region, the Gaspé Peninsula, where we were able last year to hire people then on unemployment insurance and put them to work in the forest fighting the spruce budworm epidemic. All these workers were then able to work for 20 to 30 weeks during the fall, so that they were once more eligible for unemployment insurance.

Of course, an additional amount of \$100 million dollars allocated to this program will benefit the people of my region and of many others across the country. Mr. Speaker, the new NEED Program will also include the community employment and Summer-Canada programs, that is the community project stream of the Summer-Canada program. Finally, the community development program which we have known for three years now, namely the new NEED Program, will enable us to help especially the highly underprivileged regions. When I look at my colleague from St. John's East, it is obvious that Newfoundland, which is in an underprivileged region of Canada, will have its share of the projects and be in a position to benefit from those programs.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the fourth stream of those job-creation programs will be the community employment expansion program. It will contribute to the long term development of employment, particularly in those regions where the unemployment rate remains high and where the economic recovery will probably be slower than in other regions. That is why such a program will obviously be very important in areas like Eastern Quebec and the Maritime Provinces.

Those, Mr. Speaker, are the four streams within which the Department of Employment and Immigration has attempted to regroup a wide variety of programs to make it easier for all Canadians, and particularly workers who want to benefit from those programs, to understand what they are all about.

There is also another subject which I would like to comment on and which is of great interest to me and to many of my colleagues on this side of the House. I am convinced that our friends opposite are concerned as well about that problem, namely youth unemployment. Last Tuesday's budget has shown that the Federal Government wants to tackle head on the thorny issue of jobs for young Canadians. Hon. Members may recall that, in early January, the Minister of Employment and Immigration attended a federal-provincial conference in

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Edmonton and urged his provincial colleagues to work closely with him in an attempt to find quick solutions to the problem of unemployment among young people.

The Summer Canada Program announced recently will enable us next summer to create 70,000 jobs. As a result of the budget of last Tuesday, we will certainly be in a position to create more jobs, in view of the fact that \$95 million have been allocated to the Youth Wage Subsidy and Internship Program throughout the country. As a result of that measure, businesses will be able to hire young people and give them the opportunity to acquire the necessary experience to enter into the job market. I believe this is a major step and in the coming weeks, we will have the opportunity discuss further the measures the federal government intends to take with a view to helping the youth of our country.

In closing, I should like to point out that the Gaspé area and the Bonaventure-Îles-de-la-Madeleine constituency that I have the honour to represent in this House will derive some advantages from the budget. When looking at the unemployment figures for the month of March, we realized that Eastern Quebec held the record as far as the unemployment rate is concerned. I am convinced that because of this budget and the various job creation programs and other programs as well, we will be in a position to solve the difficult unemployment problem and to provide jobs to the largest possible number of people.

[English]

Mr. Orlikow: Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Hon. Member. We now have almost two million people unemployed. According to the Government's figures, we will have 12.5 per cent unemployment this year and 11.5 per cent next year. It costs the Canadian taxpayers \$1 billion a month to subsidize the unemployment insurance system. This means we are paying people \$1 billion a month to stay home and not work.

The Hon. Member indicated that his area, the Gaspé, has the highest rate of unemployment in this country. If we can afford to pay \$1 billion for people not to work, why is the Government so satisfied when the Government says all we can afford to pay out on job creation programs is less than \$2 billion a year? Why can we not find at least half the amount of money we pay out in Unemployment Insurance so that Canadians can do the useful work which this country needs so badly?

[Translation]

Mr. Bujold: I hope, Mr. Speaker, that the Hon. Member is not suggesting that we should drop the unemployment insurance system in Canada. It must be recognized that many Canadian workers are seasonal workers and that unemployment insurance enables them to live for the rest of the year. The Hon. Member referred to my own region. Obviously, in an area like eastern Quebec and Gaspésie, where the economy is based on tourism, farming and fishing, seasonal workers are