

*Unemployment*

With regard to the community development program which, as we all know, is aimed at helping local organizations which develop and administer temporary job opportunities for the unemployed, I am pleased to report that as of April 2 last, 3,842 projects had been funded through federal grants for a total of \$100,249,400. A little over \$40 million were earmarked for community renewal and development projects, \$11 million for fish breeding and related industries, \$9 million for tourism, over \$7 million for long term local economic development, with the remainder being split between conservation, housing, environmental clean up, and other local or regional economic initiatives.

The purpose of the community services program is to help support projects lasting up to three years and aimed at creating jobs for the unemployed, especially the young, the handicapped women, and native people. Among the organizations which have actively supported this program, let us mention the Chambers of Commerce, the YMCAs and the YWCAs, as well as other organizations serving the handicapped and other special needs groups of our society.

There were 456 projects approved, for a total of 1,080 jobs, and some 336 of those projects will last almost three years and, in many cases, will lead to permanent jobs. This program is still at the experimental stage, but has already been enthusiastically received by many social groups. The purpose of the program is to help such non-profit organizations as day care centres, distress centres, and senior citizens agencies, as well as to promote the development of voluntary services and help them become independent.

Particular attention is paid to programs for native people, women and immigrants. About a quarter of the projects will be directed to women, 14 per cent to native people and 12 per cent to immigrants. The federal cabinet has approved allocation of \$11 million for this program during the fiscal year 1981-82. Mr. Speaker, the new technology employment program is designed to provide employment for the graduates of specialized courses in technical and scientific areas who have trouble finding employment in their field. It allows small businesses, research centres, as well as associations, community organizations and even individuals to receive salary subsidies to create jobs in research and development. The department has already received 647 applications which could result in the creation of 1,225 jobs. Sixty-two per cent of applications come from small businesses and 72 per cent are directly related to research and development.

Mr. Speaker, the federal contribution to salaries can go as high as 75 per cent up to a maximum of \$290 per week per job for a maximum period of 12 months. The maximum amount that can be paid to an individual employer is \$150,000. As I stated earlier, most of the recipients under this program are small businesses, but there are also other major employment sources in universities and colleges (13.14 per cent) and research centres (6.33 per cent). Funds amounting to \$6.6

million have been allocated to this program for 1980-81, and it is expected, Mr. Speaker, that the federal contribution for 1981-82 will exceed \$7.4 million. Since the end of the current fiscal year, 56 new applications have been received and are now being processed.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to tell this House about another important job creation program known as LEDA, or the Local Economic Development Assistance Program, which is administered jointly by the Commission of Employment and Immigration of Canada and the Department of Regional Economic Expansion. This program innovates in the field of community development. Its purpose is to assist small and medium size semi-rural communities which unfortunately always have a high unemployment rate, on the condition, Mr. Speaker, that these communities make themselves some effort to ensure the success of their economic development. This program is in two stages. During the first stage, the community can receive up to \$50,000 for planning purposes. Acceptance of a development project leads to the operational stage, during which a LEDA Corporation can receive \$250,000 a year for three years. This can be used to develop economic projects or studies or to support existing or even planned businesses. The projects of 13 communities have already been approved for an amount of up to \$50,000 since they are only at the initial phase. It is expected for the fiscal year 1980-81 that approval will be given to 874 projects in which about 10,195 people, including 42 percent of young people and 32 percent of women, will take part. Finally, Summer Canada will provide this year \$76.7 million to create employment for about 32,800 students.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to point out that in my riding, that of Gatineau, the department spent over \$250,000 to create jobs for students. Those students must all be listening to this debate, and it is important that today's youth should listen to this debate; they will get jobs through the Canada manpower centres. A part of the \$21.7 million allotted this program is redistributed by various federal departments and organizations. Past experience as well as unemployment rates and regional job opportunities for students are taken into account. The same criteria will be used for the other part of the \$46 million program administered by the Employment and Immigration Commission on which hon. members will be consulted to find out whether or not they are in favour of setting up local advisory committees. The projects to be given priority will concern parks, recreation camping grounds and services, health and social services, energy conservation and renewable energy, tourism, arts and culture, as well as services for the handicapped.

• (1650)

Mr. Speaker, I close on these words. I am optimistic about the future of our country. The minister and his department have made efforts and much has been undertaken. I congratulate the minister on the programs he has introduced, and I feel