

Adjournment Debate

I supported the measures put forward in Bill C-36 and have confidence in the Corrections and Conditional Release Act that confirms current practice and imparts a firm sense of direction for correctional practitioners in the coming years.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ferland): As no other hon. members wish to participate in the debate, the hour provided for the consideration of Private Members' Business has now expired.

Pursuant to Standing Order 96(1), this item is dropped from the Order Paper.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[*Translation*]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 38 deemed to have been moved.

JOB CREATION

Mr. David Walker (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I wish to say a word on the unemployment situation in Winnipeg in hope of getting an answer to the questions I asked in this House over the past few months.

[*English*]

The issue of job creation has been raised with this government several times.

• (1810)

In Winnipeg, we now face a situation of at least 43,000 people actively looking for work and about an equal number of people who are on social assistance, either from the provincial or municipal governments. This is a tremendous economic burden being carried by the city.

In the past, governments have sought strategies to include these people and to work through training programs and through economic development projects to increase the opportunities for their own job.

When asked in the House directly, the minister has consistently refused to change the strategy of the gov-

ernment. When asked in committee, his colleague responsible for western diversification could not think of ways to help out Winnipeg beyond the present plans. It is an intolerable situation to have so many people unemployed in Winnipeg and so few opportunities for training available. In fact, it is becoming a crisis.

I would like to expand on one or two particular problems. First of all, within the aboriginal community in the inner city there are a large number of projects actively involved in training. They have particular needs to act as independent service organizations to reach out and to help these people they are training. In the last several months they have been caught in a battle, both a political battle in Ottawa and a political battle in Manitoba, as to who should control these programs.

I call upon the government to come out with a solution that protects the rights and responsibilities of inner-city training groups to operate independently from government, but at the same time, independent from anyone else's political agenda.

I have met several times with these groups. My colleague from St. Boniface who is here on this debate has also met with them. The member for Winnipeg South Centre has met with them. Several MPs from the Winnipeg area have met to discuss this issue and to insist that the government work together with the groups from the inner city to produce an effective pathfinder strategy.

We have recently come across an even more difficult situation where the department of employment is actually running out of money for dealing with trainees. One of the reasons is the high tuition fees being paid, without question, to some of these schools. The second reason is the improper allocation of moneys in the Manitoba region. The third reason is the cutback in the job creation funds in the last two years which has taken at least \$8 million out of the system.

At the very time when the unemployment numbers are higher than ever, at the very time when our needs are tremendous, we find that the government has withdrawn services. I call upon the government today to explain exactly why it cannot help the people of Winnipeg to find training and to find jobs.