

term value without creating short-term distortions in our economy.

• (8:10 p.m.)

The first is a local initiative program under which the government will grant \$50 million to municipalities and their agencies and \$50 million to community organizations and other organized groups to finance labour-intensive projects.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Benson: We will be calling on these organizations and groups to submit worth-while projects that will create jobs for the unemployed without delay. We expect to consult with provincial governments forthwith to establish a mechanism for them to approve municipal projects. Appropriate arrangements will be made in respect of the two territories. Regional committees will be created to consult with the local interests who will initiate community projects. This program will be under the direction of my colleague, the Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. Lang).

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: Sabotage.

Mr. Benson: Second, we propose to introduce a new \$20 million on-the-job training program with special emphasis on unemployed young people who are ineligible for the existing manpower training programs.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Benson: We will co-operate closely with industry in this effort. In addition, \$15 million will be allocated to an expansion of our existing Canada Manpower program. The on-the-job program is designed to encourage employers to prepare for future economic expansion and to ensure that trainees acquire solid skills to increase their earning capacities and to help them take advantage of new employment opportunities.

Mr. Hees: These are things you have been refusing to do for months. The truth hurts, doesn't it?

Mr. Benson: We are building flexibility into this program—

An hon. Member: You certainly are.

Mr. Benson: —to cover a broad range of employers, and we will help to finance the program by tax incentives or direct payments to employers. The tax incentives will take the form of a 150 per cent write-off of specified costs incurred by a firm in respect of the training it provides. Alternatively, there will be a direct payment of equivalent value provided to those employers for whom this form of assistance is more suitable. Further details of this assistance will be announced later. The training programs will also be administered by the Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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Mr. Benson: Mr. Speaker, the opposition may find unemployment amusing, but I do not.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hees: We find the whole thing very sad.

Mr. Horner: The government caused it.

Mr. Speaker: May we have order, please?

Mr. Hees: Talk about deathbed repentance!

Mr. Benson: Third, it is proposed to create a new and improved \$160 million special program of loans to provinces and their municipalities to finance additional job creating capital projects. A somewhat similar program announced last December has been very successful. It has funded major highway and community projects across Canada and created many thousands of jobs. To concentrate the job-creating impact in the approaching months we have added an important financial incentive which will relieve provinces and municipalities of \$3 for every \$4 of on-site labour costs which they incur up to May 31, 1972.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hees: This is the winter works program that you have been refusing.

An hon. Member: The old winter works is back again.

Mr. Benson: This incentive feature will cover an important part of the total cost of projects financed under this program. We will be consulting the provinces forthwith on the early implementation of the program. Consideration will also be given to the way in which the program might be made applicable in the Yukon and Northwest Territories. This capital loan program is intended to be completed by March 31, 1973.

Fourth, the Department of Public Works and other departments and agencies of government will launch an \$80 million program of federal labour-intensive and capital works, embracing a wide range of maintenance and improvement projects. These will include, for example, alterations and improvements in federal buildings and transportation facilities, forest and parks projects and the extension and modernization of other federal installations. Beyond this, I would like to announce a specific allocation of \$10 million in loans this year for construction of multi-purpose exhibition buildings. This program will be under the direction of my colleague, the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson).

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hees: He's a little better, but that's not saying much.

An hon. Member: We are desperate now.

Mr. Benson: Again, our criteria for these projects will ensure that they create a maximum number of jobs, start quickly and concentrate in regions where unemployment is most serious.