

*National Training Act*

to deal with in one particular company by one set of employers really does not fit them for employment with anyone else, because the practices used by one employer are so vastly different from the practices used by another employer.

We must try to instil across the land the sense that there is by far a greater range of occupational opportunity that will come the way of the vast majority of people and that they ought not to be narrow in their focus. The example I would give is that, prior to coming to Ottawa, it would not have occurred to me to suggest to any one of my three children that they should consider language training in order that they could become *Hansard* reporters or in order that they could become interpreters or perhaps so that they could travel to the United Nations and become interpreters there. It is a skill that would not have occurred to me and I am sure would not have occurred to the majority of parents. In fact, it brings to mind that today I noted with some interest that in the Conservative Party, during the question period today, a number of their members rose in their places and in addressing the Chair they did so in French. In fact, one of their members—from Annapolis Valley-Hants (Mr. Nowlan), I believe—offered his first question in French.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Deans:** That was commendable in the first instance and was a little surprising, quite frankly, because it does not happen every day. I wondered why, and then I realized all of a sudden what the reason was: this is the first step into bed with the PQ. That is what it was. This is their initial foray into the unholy alliance of separatism.

The Conservatives have recognized that language training is a skill, an occupational skill which is required in this line of work. There they were, they were prepared to a person—I would have said “to a man” but I guess I had better not use that any more—they were prepared to a person, even in the crudest of terms—and in fact, frankly, their use of the language was almost as bad as my own—they were prepared to follow the lead of René Lévesque, who on the weekend invited them to join him in the cause of separation for the province of Quebec. I can see it emerging now. To be honest, I thought to myself it was strange it had not dawned on me before that this was happening. Then I remembered the battle at the end of the constitutional debate when they were in bed with Mr. Lévesque, and I thought, no, I should have twigged to it then.

● (2010)

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. With all due respect to the hon. member, I call to his attention the subject of the bill before us.

**Mr. Skelly:** We are talking about training.

**Mr. Deans:** What I am speaking about is the training process that is made available in order, presumably, that one can widen one's opportunities. Just as my family might be encouraged to undertake language training, it is clear to me that the Conservatives have twigged to this early and decided that kind of training would be very useful to them and that

over the course of the next two years we will see more and more of this as they pursue that unholy alliance, that attempt to divide this country and that power-at-any-cost thrust, and as they attempt to find common ground with the PQ in this effort to destroy the country.

In any event, I use that as an example of how anyone could take advantage of this kind of thing. I go back to my initial comments. There does not seem to me to be much doubt that training in the traditional sense no longer fits the needs and that for some that fond dream of becoming a skilled journeyman which will guarantee a man or a woman the opportunity to provide for himself or herself is not nearly as valid as it was some years ago. It is therefore important, if this program is to work at all, that it be a joint effort. There must be a significant contribution by employers. They have to be more open in their approach. They have to be prepared to offer the people who are doing the educational planning the widest possible scope in terms of information and access to the machinery of the day. They have to work out with the government an alliance not unlike the alliance the Tories and the PQ are working out together in an effort to undermine the country.

**Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, we in the New Democratic Party are very concerned about this bill. It was developed without any real consultation with provincial governments. Most of us in the House recognize—it appears there are a few members in the government party who do not recognize it—that this matter is a concern which should be approached with the participation of the provincial governments. Most of us recognize that there is a real need for the federal government and the provincial governments to make sure our community colleges and other training institutions provide the type of training we need to meet the job opportunities that will be available to Canadians in the future. When the minister announced this program, the provincial ministers responsible were surprised at what the minister had in store. They were surprised for a very simple reason. They were surprised because the minister did not consult them.

**Mr. Bujold:** That is not true.

**Mr. Murphy:** If that is not true, one of the members of the government can tell us about that afterwards. The minister announced this program just prior to meeting with the provincial ministers. The point is that if we are to develop the types of programs we need so that we no longer will have to import 30,000 or 40,000 people from offshore, the only way we can do that is with co-operation between the provincial governments and the federal government.

Every year we hear about the number of trained people we need for jobs that are available. Last year the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Axworthy) told us we needed approximately 30,000 people to fill the skilled job requirements of the western provinces. We recognize that with the downturn of the economy of western Canada we may not need 30,000 people at the present time. We may need only 20,000 or 25,000 people. But skilled Canadians to do those