

*Supply*

either legal, labour relations or industrial relations training. They were selected through interviews and are in a position to arrange those meetings with employers.

Manpower training in Quebec is conducted with federal funding, a major contribution to the training of skilled young workers and the reduction of unemployment risks. In the last fiscal year, for instance, the Canadian government invested \$185.4 million in manpower training in Quebec, helping some 65,000 full-time trainees. Some 50 per cent of the trainees are under 24, which shows how much these programs benefit our young people.

Mr. Speaker, I should also point out that as far as occupational training programs are concerned, even regular workers who had temporarily lost their job and who had to find another job when their unemployment insurance period was nearing its end, could extend their unemployment insurance period by attending those courses. Let us see what happened in the case of former employees of a company known as the Ventilateurs Victoria of Victoriaville. The employees represented by the CNTU, following representations made to me by the union authorities, were in a position to inquire at the Victoriaville employment centre and in the riding of Lotbinière, especially in Victoriaville, and with the co-operation of the regional and local school board were allowed to attend courses and thus plan for improved job opportunities for the future.

However, we are not altogether satisfied with the results obtained through those training programs and it is exactly for the purpose of improving those conditions, that the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Axworthy) last Friday introduced Bill C-115 on occupational training designed to implement a new training plan, taking into consideration the technological progress of the 1980s and our other economic requirements for that period. I am convinced that all my colleagues in the House would like to ensure the quick passage of that bill which will represent a major step in our endeavour to improve the fate of our young people who are looking for jobs. In this respect, it is also very important that with the report and Bill C-114 we should provide for an extension of UI benefits and move to reduce the number of weeks required before drawing unemployment insurance benefits. That was also done at the request of some of my constituents and I see that the minister did come up with an adequate response. I note that it was done in my riding. Those representations had again been made to me by spokesmen for the CNTU and I see that the department has been able to fulfil some of the expectations of those workers in my riding.

● (1730)

As I said at the outset of my remarks, we all fully realize that the situation is serious. The government of Canada acknowledges some responsibility for providing assistance, but it must also be admitted that we cannot hope to succeed if we act alone. The international situation as well as the policies and the active measures taken by the most important elements of our society—provincial and municipal governments, large corporations, small and medium-size businesses—all have some influence on the number of jobs which may be available. For instance, the Quebec provincial government recently

backed out of its financial commitments concerning summer jobs for students. Nothing surprising there.

These past few years, the provincial employment agency for Quebec students has paid part of their salary to employers who hired students through the agency. This year the province will maintain its registration and introduction service, which the federal government maintains as well on a country-wide basis, but it has done away with subsidies to employers. That is one more example of our good government. Mr. Speaker, I find it deplorable that, rather than running some sort of an advertising campaign on the Constitution and on certain rights of which it had allegedly been deprived, the government of Quebec has not chosen instead to come here to Ottawa to make representations as the people are urging them to do through various polls in which they state their agreement with respect to the renewal of the Constitution. The Quebec government spokesmen should be here instead of running that kind of campaign. They should have used that money precisely to sponsor student programs. It is unfortunate that such a situation should exist.

In my own riding, Mr. Speaker, I urge employers to provide students with summer jobs, even if these jobs are to be of short duration. As a rule, people understand that the money students earn during the summer months help them get the experience they need to join the labour force successfully. I suggest, therefore, that employers should make a special effort in these hard times. Hiring more students for the summer would represent a very good investment not only for their own business but also for Quebec's economic future. Mr. Speaker, I should like to stress the fact that the situation in Quebec is in my view quite deplorable. But happily—and I would like my constituents in the federal riding of Lotbinière to know that—the federal government has really made a tremendous effort this year by increasing the budgets for my own riding by more than \$100,000. That has made it possible for all the municipalities with youth projects to be fairly treated by the Government of Canada in the areas of the handicapped, recreation and community services. All the municipalities within Lotbinière have received money through the Student Summer Job Program within the limits of the financial resources available. I think that it is important for this government to continue these programs, for we are aware that our opponents wanted to get rid of the Canada Works and Young Canada Works programs the moment they came into office in 1979. I feel that we must seek increased budgets for the various programs.

[English]

**Mr. Tom McMillan (Hillsborough):** Mr. Speaker, no subject could be more relevant at this time of year than that of student and youth unemployment. Tens of thousands of young people are pouring out of our high schools, our community colleges and our universities in search of jobs, and in many cases full-time, permanent jobs. For many of those young people, perhaps most of them, the search will be a complete failure. I say complete failure because a considerable number of them will not have any success in landing any employment