

The other day in the House I mentioned the Government's policy to end the branch line rehabilitation program. However, other government policies are dis-entitling people from existing within their own future in my part of the country. The cancellation of the branch line rehabilitation program may damage the ability of the community of River from sustaining a future. But if there is no redevelopment or opportunity for growth in that community, there will be no jobs to retrain people for. Those people will have to move into a larger community in order to build a future for their families and children. As a result, we are creating another group of unemployed in the larger urban centres. Policies such as maintaining the branch line rehabilitation program would ensure that those people who live in that rural community will have a future in their community and not have to move to a larger centre to compete with people who are already unemployed for those jobs that the Government is now considering in terms of its retraining program.

The community of Big River is not looking to the Government for assistance to retrain its workers, the people currently involved in agriculture production, in the lumber industry, and in the sawmill operations. That community is simply looking for the opportunity to maintain its economy and maintain the way of life enjoyed by its residents for quite a period of time. There are 700 homes in the community of Big River. As a result of the possible discontinuation of the rail line, those people are now looking at what is the future. If they cannot ship their grain, or move their lumber from the sawmill that is keeping the other element of that community open, what opportunities do they have? We are not going to be retraining people to do oil work, welding, or any of the other things proposed under this scheme to help the people in that community.

Regional development programs, community development programs, funding for community education-based programs to keep people active in rural and remote areas are the types of programs that we need from the Government. I certainly support initiatives that have been taken in the past to direct community and regional colleges into the rural areas by all governments of all political stripes in the Province of Saskatchewan and in the federal Government. Those regional colleges are delivering some of the programs that are being offered under the Unemployment Insurance Program and the Canada Jobs Strategy. That has to be expanded and built

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upon. I can see that there is a future if the Government is committed to doing that.

**Mr. Kempling:** As I listened to the hon. gentleman speaking, I wondered when he was going to get to his point. He seemed to be relating the experience of some people with the Saskatchewan Government and a program that it had in place, and somehow was trying to lay that problem on our back. That is too bad. Whatever happened out there happened with the government that was in vogue. It was not done in conjunction with our government.

I would suggest to the Hon. Member that the people in the community of Big River contact the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mrs. McDougall) and ask whether a Community Futures Program could be designed for their particular situation. We have signed hundreds of Community Futures Programs for situations exactly the same as the Member is describing. I am sure that the Minister would be pleased to have her officials look into it.

As far as other training is concerned, I know there are those in the world who think that all training should be done in colleges or schools. We always have this difficulty. There are people in industry who tell us that they do not want the tool and dye makers who are coming out of certain community colleges because they do not have the qualities or they do not want a certain type of worker. Our job is to upgrade that wherever we can.

The Government negotiates, talks and discusses with industry groups and with the provinces what their labour skills requirements will be for the period ahead. That is what we will engage in this fall through six industry groups which will be discussing with the Government, labour and management what labour skills will be required in the period ahead. Our job is to train people as a result of the reports that come back here and we will do that.

I do not see the doom and gloom the Hon. Member seems to see. I have been here for 17 years and I look forward to the time when one day we will hear a Member from the NDP speak about something that is not doom and gloom.

**Mr. Taylor:** I thank the Hon. Member for Burlington for his question. I have a certain amount of respect for the Member. Not too long ago I attended a Canada-United States interparliamentary group meeting where the Hon. Member spoke eloquently about the steel industry. That is something that I have very little contact with in my part of the country. I certainly learned a lot from the Hon. Member's presentation on steel and I feel