

*The Budget—Mr. Axworthy*

to 10,511,000 in 1983, for a loss of 63,000 jobs. Yet the level of unemployment will rise from 1,305,000 in 1982 to 1,487,000 in 1983, for an increase of 182,000. The Minister failed to address this question today.

Given the fact—and the Minister talked about this in his speech—that the budget calls for an expenditure of \$1.484 billion in terms of direct job creation, surely the Minister must be able to tell the House how many jobs we can expect these new job creation funds will create this year. I tell him not to talk about the 600,000 projection over two years, which is really talking about restoring jobs in the economy. We are talking here about direct job creation.

**Mr. Axworthy:** Mr. Speaker, I will be very pleased to answer that question. It is a very straightforward one and deserves a straightforward answer. The actual expenditures of our Department as a result of the budget last night which added an additional \$375 million in expenditures will take the total employment development expenditures to approximately \$1.6 billion and will provide employment opportunities for over 300,000 Canadians. That is the simple result of the kind of expenditure pattern that we are now offering through the auspices of my Department.

I would caution the Hon. Member to recognize that that is not the exclusive initiative being taken by the Government. In the budget itself there are a number of initiatives in the housing area that will provide immediate stimulus. There is the commitment to provide a number of new jobs through the capital recovery program. There are also a number of new jobs being provided by the private sector itself and the improved environment that we will be able to provide to bring those jobs on stream.

It is our commitment to provide over 300,000 employment opportunities and places through the expenditures of the Department of Manpower and Immigration. I suggest this has provided a major source of stability, a major source of help and a major source of bridging for people in this country this year and next.

**Mr. McGrath:** Mr. Speaker, could the Minister be more specific? For example, let us take the NEED Program. According to the budget, we are talking about \$180 million in new money going into the NEED Program on top of the \$500 million allocated last year. The Minister himself will tell us that the NEED Program, with a target of 50,000 jobs for half a billion dollars, has thus far created, according to the latest figures, and I stand to be corrected, only 27,000 jobs. We have 27,000 jobs in the NEED Program, notwithstanding the fact that this is a half billion dollar program. This program started last November and it was targeted to those in dire straits. In other words, it was supposed to help those Unemployment Insurance exhaustees right away, yet it has taken this while to create 27,000 jobs.

Where are the 300,000 jobs the Minister is talking about? Are these 300,000 jobs to be created this year as a result of the direct job creation expenditures for which the Minister is responsible?

**Mr. Axworthy:** Mr. Speaker, I will be very pleased to try to clarify the situation for the Hon. Member.

First, let us examine the NEED Program itself. When the Minister of Finance announced the \$500 million expenditure last October, he expressed the hope that we would be able to take those sums and multiply them by having matching funds from the Province, municipalities and other sponsors. I was engaged to go forward and develop that program. As a result of negotiations we were able to sign agreements with the Provinces which have added an additional \$200 million to the program. Further to that, we have also discovered that under the NEED Program additional funds are coming in from individual sponsors. The municipalities, on average, are adding another 25 per cent. The private sector, and this is perhaps the most exciting part, is matching the funds by almost 50 per cent.

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This is why we are putting a particular emphasis on accepting proposals by smaller firms, because where we are spending \$1 they will spend \$1. Thus we are getting money back into the economy again.

The Hon. Member has an example in his own riding with the Erco Industries which I believe is spending something like \$6 million. We are putting in \$.5 million, and the result is that we will create over 100 additional jobs. Not only that, but that company will have a basic modernization of its facilities. There is a living example in his own riding which he could utilize. That has been the whole purpose of the NEED Program. It is our estimate that under NEED we will create closer to 80,000 jobs.

Also the Hon. Member has to recognize that there are other job programs as well. The Canada Community Development Program created 50,000 employment places this year. Summer Youth Employment will create over 75,000 jobs. The Program for the Employment-Disadvantaged has 20,000 enrolled in it. The list goes on. There are a number of those kinds of programs. By the way, that is one of the reasons I will be consolidating those programs over the next couple of months so that perhaps we will not have quite the same confusion the next time the Hon. Member and I have this kind of exchange.

**Mr. Lewis:** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister. In the budget the Government has allowed for \$100 million so that laid-off workers will continue to receive Unemployment Insurance benefits while doing voluntary work on community projects. I can see the reason behind that, and personally I support it.

There is a situation occurring in ridings all across the country where Canadians are laid off and they apply at the Manpower office. The Manpower office does not have jobs for them, so in turn they enrol in a course of their own choice and pay tuition at community colleges to be either retrained or receive additional training. When they do that, they find that the same office which cannot find them jobs cuts them off benefits because they are not available for work.