

National Training Act

health programs and 800 in design arts. Of the remaining 1,000, 700 are in skill programs and 300 are in academic upgrading. With the minimal amount of knowledge with which Georgian College and all the community colleges across Canada operate as to what the demands will be for the skills with which young people graduate, Georgian College has a placement rate of approximately 100 per cent. I think that speaks to the attitude of the community college system in Ontario.

I would like just briefly to mention what this attitude is built on. It is built on people in the community. It is built on a board of directors from the community. It is built on people who have proved themselves in industry and education and who spend their time, their free time—perhaps their not-so-free time—trying to set up training programs for young people so that they will have jobs. This is not an academic approach. It is a practical approach by people who have “been there” and who want to see the people of the county of Simcoe and others who come in succeed. It speaks to what we need in Canada.

● (1700)

I went to a convocation at Georgian College on the Orillia campus on the weekend. Any member on either side of this House who spends long hard weeks in this place should go to a community college convocation if he or she gets the opportunity. Nothing can give more of a lift than seeing the young people who have achieved something come out with a diploma which shows that they have the skills required to earn a living. It is great for parents to see their children achieve something that they can put to use in this country. I would encourage all members to attend the convocation of a community college if they can. It gives one an incentive to come back here and fight the good fight.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lewis: That only comes about because we are undertaking training on a practical basis. Georgian College is training nursing assistants, mental retardation counsellors, bookkeeper-typists and machinists. Indeed, the only graduate in the welding course was a woman. These are the kinds of things we can do in community colleges and, backed by this bill, they will take a national approach to training for jobs in this great country of ours.

Mr. W. C. Scott (Victoria-Haliburton): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity today to speak on, Bill C-115, the National Training Act. If this piece of legislation is properly enacted and guided, it can truly change the direction of retraining in Canada. It certainly will affect many thousands of Canadians male and female, young and old, able and less able, alike. The main principles behind this bill and others that it has superseded are honourable.

I do not intend to go through the whole history of training in Canada, as my colleague the hon. member for Rosedale (Mr. Crombie) has already done that quite adequately in his opening remarks regarding this bill ten days ago. He pointed out that in 1910, the Government of Canada established a

royal commission on industrial training and vocational education. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the Prime Minister of the day, in his wisdom actually acted upon the recommendations of that commission. His government enacted two pieces of legislation, the agricultural assistance act and the agricultural instructions act. In 1916 a further recommendation was fulfilled with the establishment of the National Research Council by Sir Robert Borden.

This bit of history is mentioned only to show that these early administrations understood that Canadians needed assistance in the retraining field. It is of particular pride to me to point out that these administrations understood the importance of the business of agriculture in 1910. I wonder if the minister and the government of today understand the importance of the business of farming in 1982.

I understand the minister when he says in his press release of May 21, 1982, that economic growth and change in the 1980s will require major increases in the resources devoted to the production of high level skills. I also believe him when he says in the same release that major shortages averaging 9,000 skilled workers each year are predicted over the next five years unless the pace of expansion increases dramatically. This is pure economics, and no one can question that more skilled workers must be provided for the rapidly growing technology industries. However, I urge the government to look back at the roots of training I have mentioned and remember the business of agriculture in Canada. Remember the importance of agribusiness and small farms when decisions are made to redirect national training funding. Remember the shortage of field workers experienced by produce crop farmers. Remember the skills it takes today to set up and operate a farm or an agribusiness. Do not dismiss agriculture when designating occupations of national priority. Remember, these are all individual small businesses, which must not suffer from any redirection of funds or designation of jobs of national importance.

Last Thursday, June 10, I attended the 125th anniversary of the town of Lindsay in my riding. They called it Charter Day. Our hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) sent congratulations in the form of a scroll, which was sealed in a time capsule and buried for posterity.

As Lindsay has a twin town in Japan called Nayoro, I thought it fitting to invite Japan's ambassador to Canada to the celebrations. I had the pleasure of introducing him to the community at the civic luncheon. After the luncheon I talked with people familiar with Japanese industry. Our discussions brought up many details of the Japanese business and life that I had only read about.

Japanese industry and government operate under the guidance of the so-called theory “Z”. One of its features is a remarkably high degree of employee-employer loyalty. It is not uncommon for whole families to work for one employer from generation to generation. This obviously means a very low employee turnover rate. It allows for much more internal mobility and flexibility of firm internal labour markets. I