

their share of the market not just in Canada but on the international level. The result is that they are now being battered and destroyed, not only for international markets but right here in Canada. The Liberal government of the past has done nothing for that.

Despite the fact we are spending, as the minister said, over \$800 million a year on manpower training, we see a very strange and sad situation on one end. I look at what is needed in the way of skilled workers, and I refer the minister to a study which was done by machinery manufacturers in Ontario. I know the minister must have seen the study which shows that the bulk of skilled tradesmen, machinists, tool and die makers, and electricians are now well over 40 years of age. We have recruited most of these skilled people in the past from other countries, despite the billions of dollars we spend on manpower training. They are not coming to this country now, and I say to the minister that the training programs he announced will only train several hundred people, when in fact we need thousands, or several tens of thousands of people.

● (2150)

We are not even beginning to do the job. There is nowhere we can see that more vividly than in the minister's and my city of Winnipeg. It has been estimated by educators in Canada that three million people, speaking from memory, but I think, if anything, I am underestimating, in this country are functionally illiterate.

We have noted in the city of Winnipeg the movement of native people from their reserves to the city, as well as to the city of Regina and others. They feel they will be better living in the cities than on the reserves where they were born. Their educational level is so bad they do not fit into the program being offered at the present time by our community colleges and manpower training schools.

What has been the response of the minister's department in recent years? Has it been increasing the money so that those people who are functionally illiterate can take courses? The answer is no; in fact it has been doing exactly the opposite. I wish the minister would scale down the kinds of speeches he makes and give us some solid facts.

**The Chairman:** I regret to interrupt the hon. member but his time has expired.

**Mr. Foster:** Mr. Chairman, I want to say how important this employment tax credit bill is, though it has its limitations in the rural and remote areas of our country. I was pleased when the minister announced his employment strategy last Monday that he included a number of programs such as the Youth Employment Program and the Canada Community Development Program, with an indication that there would be some \$120 million for funding.

There are a couple of things I would like to know about this Community Development Program. First, will the assistance be given in terms of money for materials for the construction of projects? As most hon. members know, a number of these programs like Canada Works and the Local Initiatives Pro-

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gram have been going on for the past several years in many communities, especially rural and native, where many of the projects have involved no capital investment and have been completed. These communities are now moving on to more sophisticated things like the construction of buildings, wharves, parks and so on. These require some capital investment.

Following along with what I think the minister has in mind, that the projects have a long-term development advantage, I am interested in knowing whether there will be funds provided over and above those provided under the Canada Works Program, I believe something like \$30 per man-week, for materials and overhead costs. Will additional funds be provided for native groups and other small rural communities which do not have the financial wherewithal to provide materials for long-term facilities?

In this regard there has been an excellent working relationship with the Small Craft Harbours Branch of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, at least in the Great Lakes region and in central Canada, where that branch of that department of government has provided material costs for repairing wharves, the development of marinas and so on. Has the minister made any arrangement for that kind of funding to be provided through that department, or is there a mutual agreement in this regard? If that is not the case I hope the minister will make representations to that department to obtain those funds. It is fine to have funds for labour under a community development project, but if there are no materials at the local level then these projects simply cannot go forward. I should like to know whether that arrangement has been made, or if in fact his department is providing additional funding.

I was very pleased to note in the minister's statement on Monday that he will be establishing a local economic development assistance program, LEDA. When this program was cancelled last summer by the former government we in fact had two local economic development groups in the Algoma constituency, one on Manitoulin Island and one on the North Shore, traditionally two of the highest unemployment areas, that were considering the establishment of local economic development corporations.

How soon will the minister establish these 15 or 18 pilot projects, and will the concept be the same as that proposed by the department a little over a year ago when it suggested that there be a fund of up to \$250,000 per year provided to the LEDA corporations, part of which could be used for administration, perhaps \$100,000, with \$150,000 for equity investment, loans, advances and so on in order to establish these local economic development corporations?

It seems to me this would really provide a tremendous stimulus of opportunity for the local communities to band together to achieve something. In my constituency they have already established this kind of association of municipalities, but they do not have the funds to seek out prospective industries or develop indigenous industry in the area.

I hope this program will go forward and will not get bogged down in a lot of red tape as happened a year ago when there was an effort to make it completely acceptable to the prov-