

*Supply*

the Industry and Labour Adjustment Program enables the unemployed over 46 years of age and living in designated areas to find another job, because the Government is paying a wage subsidy to employers who are willing to hire those people.

● (1730)

I would also like to discuss another program, namely the Community Employment Program which enables workers who have exhausted their unemployment insurance benefits to obtain another productive job on a temporary basis. The Bill to provide for the payment of benefits to laid-off employees and to amend the Canada Labour Code which was given Royal assent on March 31, 1982, made available in last resort in designated industries some benefits to workers aged 54 to 65, who were laid off as a result of too fierce a competition from abroad, of an industrial reorganization or because of certain problems related to a non-cyclical market.

The National Training Act which controls the present training programs and has them focused on skills particularly in demand on the national level, promotes the adjustment of businesses and workers to technological development, and then intensifies training courses available to those who are getting ready to enter the labour market.

The following programs are aimed at some special manpower groups. The Affirmative Action Program, for example, stimulates the private sector into developing a practical attitude towards women, native people and the disabled. Special provisions for native training are making financial aid available to enable native men and women to get some additional training.

There is also another program aimed at women getting involved in non-traditional occupations. The purpose of this program is to help women who want to hold non-traditional occupations which were previously reserved for men by paying wage subsidies to employers who are willing to give them the required training.

I would like to point out the Women's Employment Program designed to extend the professional scope of the working women by encouraging them to attend skill training courses or to hold occupations which were generally denied to them in the past.

I will now refer to the Program for the Employment-Disadvantaged, the purpose of which is to find permanent jobs in the private sector for the physically and mentally handicapped and for the chronically unemployed.

Mr. Speaker, we could give a lengthy list of all programs launched by this Government.

I could mention others. The Government intends to work more closely with voluntary and local organizations towards the implementation of a community service program. What has the government been doing? It is looking into its dealings

with voluntary organizations, as well as into the subsidies it is paying to them.

I see that I am running out of time, Mr. Speaker; I could mention a great many other programs. In the Speech from the Throne, the government indicated that as major employer in this country, it would lead the way in its approach to the Public Service. It suggested that all discrimination based on sex should be eliminated. What have we done, Mr. Speaker? In 1981, within the Personnel Policy Branch of the Treasury Board, a Developmental Personnel Policies and Activities Division was created to make sure that the government fulfilled its promises of implementing within the Civil Service affirmative action and equality-of-opportunity policies. The Division must ensure that women, natives and handicapped people have equal opportunities. It is also responsible for the quality of worklife within the Civil Service. It tends to support the efforts of its own Affirmative Action section, the Public Service Commission, and the Affirmative Action sections of other departments.

The Government had other commitments: it said it would amend the Criminal Code to solve for instance the problem of violent crimes against women, and together with provincial and territorial governments, it would try to improve the social services and care provided to women who are the victims of violent acts.

What have we done, Mr. Speaker? Bill C-127, to amend the Criminal Code, was adopted by the House on August 4, 1982. We have replaced rape with sexual assaults of various degrees. We have done away with the need to have a plaintiff's claim substantiated. We have done away with the spouse's immunity. The Criminal Code has been amended so that its provisions apply to people of both sexes.

Here is a good one that concerns energy, Mr. Speaker. Since the Progressive Conservative Government was defeated by the Liberals, the Official Opposition has been complaining that we misled the population because we promised not to increase oil prices. That is a good one! Let's be clear about what happened at the time, Mr. Speaker. The Progressive Conservatives promised that they would implement an 18 cents a gallon excise tax on oil and increase prices gradually up to 85 per cent of oil prices. The Liberals promised not to impose this 18 cents a gallon tax and to maintain prices at 75 per cent of world prices. This is exactly what happened. The price of oil must go up just like the price of bread and butter. Moreover, it would obviously have increased much more if the Progressive Conservatives had remained in power. They clearly said that they wanted domestic prices to 85 per cent of world prices in addition to imposing an excise tax of 18 cents a gallon. And now they spread the rumour that the Liberals did not keep their promise. I can assure the House that oil prices would be much higher if the Progressive Conservative Government was still in power.