

*The Budget—Mr. Bujold*

entire employment situation in Canada and how we could, realistically, find jobs for the unemployed. Papers were tabled in the House yesterday, with the unanimous consent of the House, and I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to thank our two Opposition critics for agreeing to let the Minister table the document in question and refer it to committee, where we shall be able to have some frank and straightforward discussions about finding realistic solutions to the unemployment problem in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, in line with the new budget, and within our own Department of Employment and Immigration, the Minister has decided to restructure all our job creation programs and to follow up what the Minister of Finance said the other evening, namely, that the Government would try to eliminate as much as possible all the administrative red tape from these programs.

Across the country, the NEED Program has shown that it is possible to streamline administrative procedures in order to create jobs as quickly as possible, and I believe that by amalgamating various programs in our Department, we can substantially reduce the administrative workload for many programs and enable a large number of Canadian workers to get the jobs as soon as possible.

Of course, employment opportunities for the eighties had to be a major concern when amalgamating programs and restructuring the Department of Employment and Immigration. As I pointed out before, many Canadians in industries and regions across the country have been severely affected by the profound changes that have taken place in our society in the past five or six years, and especially this past year.

The manpower requirements of our industry have changed dramatically, Mr. Speaker. That is the reason why over the past year the Minister has had, and intends to continue to have, consultations with Canadians everywhere in this country, and I am sure that the committee meetings we will hold over the next few weeks will be beneficial in terms of our planned improvements under these programs.

Thus, Mr. Speaker, the Minister has decided to gather into four different groups the previous 12 programs administered by the Department of Employment and Immigration with a view, as I said before, to reducing the red tape involved in the implementation of these programs, meeting job requirements, and supporting the job creation effort and the economic growth in all parts of Canada as a whole, but especially in slow growth areas.

Mr. Speaker, I should like to spend a little time explaining just how these four programs will be established and to what target group they will be directed.

The first program, and important one to be known as the ACCESS program will deal of necessity with human resources. I think it will greatly help channel the measures aimed at developing human resources by unifying them under

a single program. Mr. Speaker, this program will therefore combine those formerly known as DPEP, namely the Portable Wage Subsidy Program, the New Technology Employment Program, the Summer Canada Program stages which began this year, as well as the Canada community development projects. The new ACCESS Program is therefore aimed directly at those who are disadvantaged on the labour market. Through this program, we can go to the regions with a very low rate of economic growth and few job opportunities and return to the labour market those individuals who have failed repeatedly to find a job.

Mr. Speaker, a second program is also very important, in my opinion, the Youth Job Corps Program. As I said earlier, the drastic changes we have seen on the labour market these last few years have brought home to us the fact that many Canadian workers had neither the skills nor the work habits needed to find a paying job. This new program will therefore combine part of the Local Employment Assistance Program, or LEAP, and the Youth Job Corps element of our community development projects aimed at students or young workers to provide young people that are disadvantaged on the labour market with opportunities they did not have before.

Mr. Speaker, a third program is aimed directly at employment development. As I indicated earlier, this is the NEED Program which was implemented last fall, and in this regard, I would like to correct something that my colleague for St. John's East said. This program came into effect last October 27. We have to remember that it was announced last October 27 and that the Minister of Finance then announced that projects would first be approved early in February 1983. The data then available and later collected by the Department prompted the Minister of Employment and Immigration to ask the Minister of Finance to implement this program without delay and put it into effect in early January to meet the needs of jobless workers at that time. The program therefore started early in 1983 and has resulted to date in the creation of 35,000 jobs throughout the country.

Obviously, neither this program nor our other job-creation initiatives will enable the Government to hire all the unemployed in Canada. The question that we must ask ourselves is this: Are the Federal and Provincial Governments solely responsible for hiring all the workers in the country? Mr. Speaker, I believe that the private sector must share some responsibility for hiring workers, and that is why part of the budget is aimed at this sector of the Canadian economy to restore the climate of confidence of which Canada has always been so proud, so that the private sector can do its share in hiring the unemployed.

Even to this date, Mr. Speaker, under the NEED Program, many excellent projects were developed in certain communities because people believed in them and were willing to give their