

Supply

to ten years, in such professions that require nine months or more of training. The new system will be sufficiently accommodating to allow for the exercise of judgment.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member, but his time has expired.

● (1620)

[English]

Mr. Howard Crosby (Halifax West): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for providing me with the opportunity to speak in support of the motion that has been presented to the House by the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark). The motion contains not only a substantial part dealing with the matter of job creation in Canada now, but it also supports the principles of parliamentary democracy upon which our whole Canadian system is based. I will explain that in a moment.

First let me say what we are trying to do and what the Leader of the Opposition is trying to bring to the attention of the House and the Canadian public is the fact that ten Members of Parliament on the government side have stood up to be counted on the issue of the budget and the tremendously adverse effect it is having on the Canadian economy and, more important, on the Canadian people. That is what this motion is all about. We in the opposition want to band together with those members on the government side who stood up to be counted on this issue. We want to support them. We want them to know that we are here to help them because we are all here to help the people of Canada.

We cannot help the people of Canada if we back off to a government which insists on putting in proposals and programs against the wishes of the people of Canada. That is why the motion involves parliamentary democracy.

We were sent here by people in constituencies right across Canada, in the provinces of Quebec, Nova Scotia and British Columbia, to represent them. That is what we must do. That is our purpose for being here. That is what the members who signed that letter, the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Miss Bégin), the Minister of State (Mr. Joyal) and the eight private members who joined together did to make this presentation and proposal.

They are saying to the government and to the people of Canada that they know what Canadians need and want is jobs. They have to go to work. What are we talking about when we talk about unemployment in Canada? We talk about the 1.2 million people officially unemployed in Canada, according to government statistics.

It is worse than that. It has been mentioned several times in this House and other places that those statistics are not accurate. There are many more people unemployed in Canada. Statistics Canada surveys simply scratch the surface. They take into account those people out of work and looking for jobs, of which there are 1.2 million. Unfortunately, there are millions of others in much similar circumstances. There are those who have given up looking for a job. There are at least 250,000 who know that they cannot find work in Canada, no

matter how they look. They are in provinces such as Newfoundland.

If you speak to the provincial authorities there, they will tell you that the unemployment rate there, which is officially close to 20 per cent, is even higher because so many people have given up looking for a job. They know they cannot get work.

It is the same in the provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and I believe all across Canada. There are thousands of Canadians who have given up looking for work. Therefore, it is not just the 1.2 million who are officially unemployed. There are those who know they cannot get jobs and have given up.

It is even worse than that. It is not only those 1.2 million Canadians. There are an additional 1.5 million Canadians with part-time jobs. What are part-time jobs? That is working less than 30 hours a week. Who wants to work less than 30 hours a week? You cannot support yourself and a family with the most menial tasks or low-paying jobs. If you work less than that, you are in poverty. There are 1.5 million of these persons in Canada. The unfortunate part is that 70 per cent of them are women. In many cases these women have to work to support a family. Either their husband has deserted them, they are widowed or they have to provide for themselves. I repeat, 70 per cent of the 1.5 million persons in Canada in that situation are women.

In addition, there are another 250,000 persons who are underemployed. These are people with qualifications for higher level jobs, but they cannot get those jobs. There are teachers working as waitresses in restaurants in order to maintain themselves. There are thousands of them across Canada amounting to a total of 260,000 persons in this situation. People with Master's degrees are working in the post office as mail sorters. You see this everywhere you go.

When you add up all those figures and talk about unemployed persons in Canada, you cannot just take the 1.2 million who are officially unemployed. You have to include the 1.5 million who are in part-time jobs, the 250,000 who have given up looking for jobs and the 260,000 who are unemployed. That comes to a grand total of almost three million Canadians in a situation where they either do not have any work, have given up looking for work, have a part-time job, or are employed at menial tasks much below their qualifications. That is over 10 per cent of the total population. That is the situation in Canada.

The Prime Minister wonders why members from Quebec get together to consider the matter, draw up a letter and send it to him saying, "Mr. Prime Minister, for heaven's sakes, create some jobs in Canada. We have almost three million people either out of work, underemployed, looking for work or giving up and becoming destitute." They are saying that something has to be done. It is as simple as that. We are responding to it. We have a motion before the House supporting those people. We want to know what other members of the government will do about this motion. Will they realize, as did their colleagues who signed this letter, that the situation has gone beyond