

Employment Tax Credit Act

what portion of the new fighter aircraft contract they can obtain? I asked them, "Are you concerned; are you worried?" They said, "Yes, we definitely are". I did not want to be raising the issue in the House if things were going along smoothly and they were getting assurances from Ottawa that they were going to be getting part of the contract. They have received no assurances at all.

I see that the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce is here. Maybe he would want to interject something here tonight about this.

Mr. Lalonde: Order.

Mr. Gauthier: This is not question period.

Mr. McKenzie: There is a little conversation going on here between two members, but I want to tell the minister that we are talking about employment here tonight as well as the different regions. If we do not get some assurance about the new fighter aircraft contract in Winnipeg, there will be many lay-offs, and the four firms in Winnipeg are very concerned. Will the minister give some firm commitment as to when he will arrange a meeting between the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, the Minister of Supply and Services, the Minister of National Defence and the four aerospace firms in Winnipeg so that they can be given some confirmation as to when they will get a firm commitment with regard to building some parts—

Mr. Lalonde: Order.

The Deputy Chairman: Order, please. With the greatest of respect, I must interject at this time and ask the hon. member to confine his questioning to the bill before us, namely, the tax credit bill, and certainly not to the creation of employment in other areas which do not concern this bill.

Mr. McKenzie: With all due respect, Mr. Chairman, we are talking about employment and—

Mr. Lalonde: Order.

The Deputy Chairman: Order, please. We are talking about tax credits.

Mr. McKenzie: Does the Minister of Employment and Immigration want to respond to what I said?

Mr. Dawson: Is this question period?

Mr. Lalonde: That is out of order.

The Deputy Chairman: Order, please. The hon. member for Wetaskiwin.

Mr. Schellenberger: Mr. Chairman, I want to intervene just briefly regarding the employment tax credit bill and the employment program regarding native Canadians which was announced. Just yesterday or Tuesday a report was tabled. That report was rather astonishing, although I suspect most hon. members are aware of the employment conditions, shelter

conditions, and some of the other problems which affect native people.

Under the employment tax credit bill, particularly at a time when we have high unemployment, employers generally seek people who are experienced. There are many people who do not have jobs but do have some work experience. Part of the problem with native Canadians is that most of them have never had the chance to get any experience in order to compete for these jobs. While I understand the technique of the employment tax credit, I do not feel it will assist native Canadians in any way. It might assist only a very few.

Because reserves are becoming crowded, many native Canadians are moving into urban centres. The problem then becomes worse because they are out of their culture. They are often driven to welfare, alcoholism or violence, as a result of living in urban areas. I understand that some \$10 million was assessed to the other program which was announced. My question is on whether the minister believes that the employment tax credit will assist in any way native Canadians in solving their problems, particularly those who have left the reserves. Is the \$10 million, under the program which has been announced, specifically designed for status Indians or will it relate to the 500,000 non-status Indians and the some 500,000 Metis people who sometimes are considered in the same group with native Canadians? If I can get an answer to those questions, it may relate to some others.

● (2050)

Mr. Axworthy: The employment tax credit program would only incidentally bring natives into the work force. It is not a program, as the hon. member properly describes it, which is designed to focus specifically on their concerns. As I pointed out in my answer to the hon. member for Calgary West, one of the reasons why we are trying to develop a balanced strategy is to have a range of options whereby we can allocate moneys to where they are most needed. That is why we introduced programs specifically designed to deal with employment difficulties faced by native people. I should say that there is not just a training program.

The community development program is one which will have a very heavy emphasis in those regions of the country where there is a high proportion of native people and, as I believe I indicated—I would like to check *Hansard*—I believe I said last time, that when we allocate money by constituency, there will be a weighing factor to provide additional funds in areas where there is a higher unemployment rate among native people. So it is that program plus the training program. The training program is available to the native people, both status and non-status, and it is designed to start some innovative programs in the training field.

The hon. member was probably not in the chamber this afternoon when a similar question was asked by another hon. member. We did point out that he should not assume that these are the only programs available for native people. LEAP, under my department, is a close to \$70 million pro-