

Supply

We also need research, development and training. Rather than cutbacks in transfer payments to the provinces which will again put pressure on the university sectors and on the education sectors, we need some co-operative venture between the provinces and the federal government to allow training and re-training at a faster pace. What is happening now is that one government, the federal government, is acting on its own and it is getting out of the business of governing and putting the onus on a province which is further and further taxed.

The welfare rolls have increased in the province of Ontario by, I believe, 100 per cent. That is twice the number of people on welfare today than a year ago. That is not reflected in the unemployment statistics, but it is a very real problem within the province of Ontario and within most other areas of the country as well. One cannot turn one's back on these people. People do not go on the welfare rolls because they wish to be supported by the state. They go on welfare because they have no other means of support.

I would beg this government to do everything in its power to create the kinds of infrastructures, the kinds of job strategies that would enhance employment opportunities in our country.

The other problem we see happening within our country is the foreign control of many of our industries, yet the Conservative government has removed almost all of the barriers to more takeovers. With these takeovers, in many cases the companies are shut down or the profits are siphoned out to another country, and we are left with very little. We must control our own destiny. It is especially important. I beg this government to do everything in its power to bring about some turnaround in this economic fiasco facing Ontario.

Look not only at the unemployed people, but at, for example, a taxi driver. I spoke to a taxi driver while I was in Toronto the other day. He is losing his home because he is getting only half the fares he used to because business people are no longer travelling. He is faced with the loss of his home. He found it very difficult to believe this government was not trying to do something to enhance business in this country, to enhance jobs, because for every job lost, someone else makes less money.

The spin-off effect, the problems that are spread from one end of the country to the other are something this government must address.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Questions and comments. A five-minute period, starting with the hon. member for Ottawa-Vanier. You have two and a half minutes.

Mr. Mac Harb (Ottawa Centre): Two and a half minutes. Very well, Mr. Speaker.

[*English*]

First I want to congratulate the hon. member on her well put speech.

I just received the report of the National Consortium of Scientific and Educational Societies and I would like to ask my colleague to comment on some of its recommendations. The consortium recommended that the Minister of Finance stop reducing the transfer payment to the provinces for post-secondary education until the first ministers agree on an alternative arrangement to fund Canada's universities adequately and reliably.

The National Consortium relies on a comment made by the Prime Minister of Canada when he stated: "In our second mandate we will concentrate on long-term investment in peoples' skills training, education, and strategic technologies.

Today I received another release, this time from the Canadian Association of University Teachers. They are quite alarmed. In fact Bob Kerr, the president, stated that Canada's system of post-secondary education is hovering on the brink of bankruptcy.

In the release which is also signed by the Canadian Federation of Students there is another quote by Professor Kerr: "What the government does not seem to understand is that universities play a vital role in the national economy, in the present and the future".

• (1620)

I would like to ask my colleague to comment on this particular statement. In her area of Sudbury, has she heard from students and teachers at universities like we have been hearing here in the national capital region?