

credits in terms of creating jobs where jobs are needed. Have you given serious consideration to that?

Mr. Axworthy: Mr. Chairman, when it comes to the hon. member's suggestion that somehow there is a great sort of secret solution lying somewhere in the catacombs of the department, I would suggest to him that we have examined what has gone on previously and have concluded, as we have said in this House several times, that we believe it is time the entire arrangement and initiatives in the job creation field be reviewed. Our proposal here is simply to extend this tax credit for a further year so we can maintain the momentum of some job-creation in Canada while we attempt to appraise more clearly and realistically what changes are taking place in the economic and industrial structure of Canada. We have announced to the hon. member several times, and we have sent him reports, papers and releases outlining that we are doing that.

We are examining a range of options, including wage subsidies, grants, and training programs. Before we start simply hanging on to sort of panaceas, which seem to be the hon. member's obsession, we want to take a longer-term view of the employment situation in Canada, take a particular look at the question of the demand for new skills, and the changing nature of economic conditions, which the international scene and the resource scene are requiring. We can then determine a program upon which the government can base a whole set of initiatives, rather than coming at it in a piecemeal, ad hoc fashion.

I would simply say to the hon. member that the range of options he is interested in is being examined. We have indicated to him and to other members of this House that we have presented a paper on employment to this House. There is a parliamentary committee which has now been formed that will also be examining the range of solutions and will reach its own conclusions. They will be mixed with the reports being done by my own department, and out of that we hope to be able to come forward with a proper package of answers that are not sort of off-the-cuff, sort of instant answers, but ones that will serve the long term. That is my intention, and I intend to hold that intention.

Mr. Hawkes: Mr. Chairman, I am encouraged by the minister's description of the last nine years of Liberal policy in this field as a panacea, rather than as an attempt to get at the structural unemployment which exists. If he is sincere I applaud this long-range effort. Let me get to a few other specific questions which have arisen in the course of the debate on this bill to this point.

The hon. member for Athabasca at one point brought the minister's attention to a situation in which an employer put in a job request, and in the normal, natural course of events an employee of Manpower and Immigration would go out and attempt to talk him into participation in the tax credit program. The minister has now had about four weeks to examine that situation. I wonder if he could tell us what he has found

out, and whether he has found any similar situations in Canada.

Mr. Axworthy: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I did ask my department to check into the conditions raised by the hon. member for Athabasca. I can only say, if that was the statement made by our official, it was clearly a misinterpretation. We have not had other cases of that kind, because we do provide a very clear examination, and I intend to write the hon. member for Athabasca setting out that particular case. We have not had other reported cases of a similar kind.

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Mr. Hawkes: Does the minister have an estimate for the number of proportion of firms in Canada that are in a position to partake in this program and get the full tax credit?

Mr. Axworthy: Mr. Chairman, the past record shows that all employers in this country who want to provide incremental employment are eligible as long as they can demonstrate that they are providing a certain fitness. We do not accept applications from people who are just starting up in business. They must have a track record of some 12 months in operation, and it is available to any other employer. I would like to point out that in a survey it was indicated that some 92 per cent of the employers were very satisfied with the program and would like to see it continue.

Mr. Hawkes: Could the minister tell us how many jobs have been created in the two years of experience of this program? What is the dispersion of those jobs, that is, how many in Quebec, how many in Ontario, and how many in the rest of the country?

Mr. Axworthy: Again, Mr. Chairman, I would like to say that if the hon. member will refer to the second reading debate in *Hansard*, he will find all the answers to those questions.

Mr. Hawkes: I read what the parliamentary secretary said about that. I think that the total was 45,000 jobs of which 7,500 were created outside the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, that is, 7,500 jobs for eight provinces, the territories and the Yukon. Is the minister satisfied with that dispersion pattern as it relates to unemployment figures in this country?

Mr. Axworthy: No, Mr. Chairman, and that is why we brought in additional job-creation programs, so that we would not have to rely solely upon the tax credit approach which has more general application in the areas which I mentioned just 15 minutes ago, the areas which have higher industrialization. That is the reason why we brought in additional job-creation programs which we announced one week ago tonight.

Mr. Hawkes: In that same report from the parliamentary secretary which he gave during his contribution to the debate, he suggested that approximately 38 per cent of these jobs went to women. In this program which was announced in this House a week ago today, there were 12,200 jobs created for women, out of a total, depending on which set of numbers one uses, of