

**Mr. Axworthy:** As a result, they are not only creating short-term jobs but long-term jobs for the future. I suggest it is the responsibility of Members of Parliament from British Columbia to return there, see what is happening and discover the realities, instead of coming to the House and going through a great deal of puffery without having the facts.

We also felt it was particularly important to address the job needs of young people. Therefore we have introduced in the budget a new youth employment strategy that will combine a number of elements dealing directly with the particular employment requirements of first-time workers coming into the job market who will need assistance to get their first job and establish a track record.

● (1620)

As we have pointed out in the past, in the training program under the National Training Act over 125,000 people under the age of 24 are presently enrolled. The figure is 125,000. I want to repeat that number so we can register the figure in the minds of Members of the Opposition.

In addition to that, we recognize there were special needs in the youth employment market. The most important was to give young people the opportunity to be on the job and get training at the same time. Therefore, we have introduced a new program called the intern program. This will provide a combination of wage subsidies to small business people in particular that will encourage them to hire young people on the job, give them a period of training and allow them to get the combination of work experience and training. This will give them a solid foundation in the job market. We will be introducing this program after consulting with business people and with young people themselves. I am pleased to say that we will be holding a major national conference on employment for young people, inviting young people from across the country this summer to discuss the matter with them. If this program is successful, we will be able to utilize it in a much broader variety of ways. It will provide in its initial phase over 35,000 jobs for young people on the job with on-the-job training.

In addition to that, we have provided major inserts for the Department of National Defence to enable it to bring people into that department's bases and give them training and also to provide opportunities in Katimavik in those areas.

We now have in place the ability to combine training, jobs and job core experience that will bring together counselling and guidance in a residential framework. We think we can honestly go forward to Canadian young people and say to them that we have put in place a strategy. If they would work with us we will be able to tackle not just the immediate crisis, not just the problem of the here and now, but the long-term problem facing young people. We recognize it is not simply a product of the recession; it is something that is endemic in the way the labour market works. What we are doing now is working with the Provinces and other partners in the economy to try to provide a much broader based youth program across Canada to give young people that kind of assistance.

### *The Budget—Mr. Axworthy*

In light of those new reforms we also felt it would be very helpful to consolidate many of the existing job programs which my department runs into three or four basic programs and to provide new funding for them. This will give us one program that will direct itself at counter-cyclical programs to provide for a response to areas of the country where there is high unemployment when there is a sudden recession, and so provide some backstop to that.

Second, it will enable us to invest in the longer term in regions where there is chronic unemployment. This is a country of great diversity. We must, in particular, help small communities in rural areas that face difficulties and do not have the same opportunities for new technology, new expansion and new business. I am speaking of areas like my friend's region of New Brunswick about which he has talked so much, parts of Quebec, northern Ontario and the northern parts of western Canada. We will provide long-term development employment funds in those areas to give people and communities a chance to plan proper employment programs. That is another part of the employment strategy.

Finally, I want to say that in addressing those issues we are tabling for the interest and response for Members of Parliament and the public a major document which is a perspective on employment for the 1980s. It will outline the framework of an employment strategy that we think will meet both the immediate problems of employment as well as the long-term structural employment problems. It will be our hope that this particular document will provide the basis for an honest debate in the country. We set out job figures where we see the job market going. We put forward how we see the Government, the private sector and labour working in partnership to solve these problems.

Therefore I request the unanimous consent of the House to table a document entitled "Perspective on Employment: A Labour Market Policy Framework for the 1980s". I also request unanimous consent that this document be referred to the Standing Committee on Labour, Manpower and Immigration without debate. If the House agrees, I will be prepared at an opportunity next week to start debating this important document with my colleagues so that we continue to create jobs for Canadians in the time ahead.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** Order, please. The House has heard a request from the Minister of Employment and Immigration to table a document and for its reference to the Standing Committee on Labour, Manpower and Immigration.

Is there unanimous consent for the Minister's proposal?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** Agreed and so ordered. Questions?

**Mr. McGrath:** Mr. Speaker, according to the projections of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) last night, the level of employment in Canada will drop from 10,574,000 jobs in 1982