

Supply

which are manufactured, such as carpeting, appliances, furniture, lighting, electrical equipment and so on.

They have to buy lawn mowers to cut the grass and other products to maintain the place, and certainly most, if not all, of those products are manufactured in Canada. Guess what? That creates manufacturing jobs. Is it working? I would say that it is.

Not only I say that it is. A recent article in *The Financial Post* says: "Longer work week may signal an upturn. Manufacturing employees spent more hours on the job in March than they did in the same month last year". That is a good sign.

Are we out of the woods? No, but it is a good sign. It is a sign that things are happening the way that they should happen.

Another member spoke about training funds. One of our members from Calgary got up and made some very legitimate points in response to that request for more training funds. However, what was not mentioned in the debate by the member from the Liberal Party is that since 1990 we have tripled the amount of money going into training funds.

Over \$3 billion a year is now spent on training. Much of that is for those who are on the unemployment rolls. Much of that is for those who are unable to find jobs because the skills they have do not match the required skill for the jobs that exist. That is a positive step.

Is it enough? We can always say it is not enough, but can the taxpayers afford it? We must understand that in many instances in order to fund unemployment insurance training programs we must increase the deduction for unemployment insurance. Those who are working will therefore have less to spend because of that problem.

It is a fine balance, but I would say that in the last three budgets we have moved the numbers in the right direction, I think very successfully. Is that all we have done? No, not at all.

In this budget we have recognized the problems that Ontario is facing. We have recognized that there is a need to assist the manufacturing sector to make it more competitive. Therefore we introduced a reduction in the

tax that must be paid by manufacturing because we have increased the capital cost allowance.

That is a very direct benefit to the manufacturing industry of Canada, particularly the manufacturing industry of Ontario. If the provincial government has done nothing else right in Ontario over the last year and a half it has been in office, it did follow the lead that we provided on that capital cost allowance. It has also made a similar move in its budget.

About the only good thing in its budget was that move. The net result was that Ontario based manufacturing is better able to invest in new technology and new ideas. Therefore Ontario based industry can be more competitive. That is positive.

Not only did we do that, but we have made it possible for consumers across Canada to have a little bit more money to spend. I do not want anyone to believe that they are going to be able to buy a Rolls Royce with the tax cut that we put in place, but we did put in place a tax cut for all personal taxpayers in Canada. It helps them pay less tax and therefore they have more to spend.

It comes into effect on July 1 and there will be more to follow early next year. Those were very positive steps. We have recognized the need that exists in Ontario and we have very clearly tried to do something about it.

More than that, we have made some very major steps for small business. We have increased small business loans, which means that small businesses can borrow up to \$200,000 guaranteed by the federal government to invest in new technology and new capital equipment. We have also put in place additional small business loan programs. All of those programs have been to provide help in a very difficult time in southern Ontario.

• (1050)

This difficult time we are talking about is not all doom and gloom, as the members opposite are saying. We have done a number of other things to assist not just Ontario business but all of Canada. For example, we spent extensive time in a committee chaired by the member for Mississauga South dealing with financial reforms.

We have now changed the method in which financial institutions operate in this country so that all Canadians, particularly business, can access the trust companies, insurance companies, and credit unions. They have a