

Supply

It is noteworthy that there will be a rebate to people who are part time employees. If they do not earn more than \$2,000 their contributions will be refunded. However, the employee's contribution will not be refunded to the employee. That will have the reverse effect of what the Liberal government says will be a job incentive program. Anything that taxes the people who employ people will have a negative effect on the number of people who are employed. We should be doing more to remove payroll taxes. We should not be putting more roadblocks in the way of business, industry, and private enterprise. We should give them more of a break to ensure they become successful.

My dad used to say that when you work for somebody you have to make sure you make them a dollar or they could not possibly afford to pay you. That is something that may have escaped hon. members opposite.

Having looked at this motion, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Yorkton—Melville:

That the motion be amended by deleting all the words after "sector".

• (1535)

The Speaker: I have looked at the amendment. Because it is the deletion of words I am going to accept it.

[*Translation*]

Resuming debate. The hon. member for Pierrefonds—Dollard has the floor. I understand you will be sharing your time with another member.

Mr. Bernard Patry (Pierrefonds—Dollard, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I think that Bill C-111, introduced in the House last Friday by the Minister of Human Resources Development, is one of the most modern pieces of legislation introduced by this government.

As Prime Minister Jean Chrétien said, the proposed reform aims to help jobless Canadians to rejoin the workforce as quickly as possible, and to regain the dignity associated with working.

Employment insurance is designed to promote the development of the Canadian workforce, as well as economic growth.

To that end, the new employment insurance program proposes new measures geared to the needs of individuals and communities.

It also seeks to promote partnership and co-operation with the provinces, with the sole purpose of improving the well-being of Canadian workers.

In co-operation with the provinces, and in the context of a new vision and a new approach, we want to provide Canadian workers with the tools and the opportunities that will help them find their niche in the workforce. Along with the provinces, the private sector and community organizations, we want these workers to have jobs that will make our country competitive on the international markets.

Governments must work together to meet the challenges of the new economy and provide workers with the necessary skills and knowledge.

Employment insurance proposes a system that is better suited to the needs of those who want to find work in the modern labour market. For example, I can think of the workers who want to get training, so that they can meet the new labour market requirements, including in the professional and industrial sectors, to ensure their well-being and also contribute to the country's economic growth. Once fully implemented, the proposed reform will create between 100,000 and 150,000 jobs every year, including 40,000 in Quebec.

Employment insurance is a much more efficient program, because it recognizes the work effort, while also helping the unemployed. The proposed changes are fair to all Canadian workers, including those who hold part-time jobs.

This program is indeed more efficient. Once fully implemented, it will result in savings of two billion dollars, without depriving any Canadian of his or her rights. Out of that amount, \$800 million will be reinvested in the employment benefit program. Adding to that amount the current budget of \$1.9 billion for employment benefits, we get a total of \$2.7 billion to be allocated to employment assistance each year. This is a unique and golden opportunity for those provinces interested in reaching agreements with the federal government to look after their workforce in a proactive fashion.

• (1540)

It was also our intention to ensure that Canadians living in high unemployment areas could take advantage of employment incentive measures in order to work more hours in a year. We have therefore established a \$300 million transition job fund over three years, to fund independent growth-related employment in areas of higher unemployment.

In conjunction with our partners, we wish to encourage employers to create new jobs and to help the unemployed to return to the work force as quickly as possible.

Employment benefits are practical and efficient tools which assist those attempting to return to the work force with practical, and in some cases personalized, measures.

Since training is a provincial responsibility, and it is the federal government's intention to withdraw from that sector under the new legislation, skill development loans and grants will be given only after formal consent by the province concerned.