

*Employment Tax Credit Act*

there, and all the rest of the arguments we hear so frequently from backbenchers in that party. Unemployment is a very serious problem. It is a serious problem for people who have been employed for ten or more years in the automobile or forest industry. It is a serious problem for the thousands of young people who are finishing schools or universities and cannot find jobs. I and the people of Canada would like to know what is the total package. What are the plans of the government? What do they think will happen as a result of their plans? How many unemployed will there be by the end of this year?

**Mr. Axworthy:** Mr. Chairman, many of the questions of the hon. member for Winnipeg North were presented earlier on in the discussions. I will briefly summarize the answers I made at that time. To begin with, as I said, we are presently engaged in a major review of the employment requirements in Canada in the next decade and how we can best answer them. We have established a parliamentary committee to look at that. It will be composed of members from all sides of the House. We have established a major task force in our department.

As I indicated in my statement, I hope to have a paper available which can be presented and tabled in Parliament by the end of this year, and then we could have a major discussion about the employment strategies which should be followed. Very many changes are taking place. In the last ten years we have been relying upon ideas about job creation at which I want to have a new look. I intend to have a new look at them. We will welcome the participation of the hon. member in that parliamentary committee, so that we can come to grips with many of the new changes which are taking place.

He mentioned the problem of industrial dislocation which is taking place in the automobile industry. I assure the hon. member that we are presently meeting with the UAW—and have over the past several weeks—to work out programs to develop income support and assistance. We have had very cordial relationships with UAW in working out those common problems. But this is a new problem which has never been experienced in the industrial heartland before. We are aware of it, and we want to provide a solution which has been worked out with the unions and employers involved. That is what we are engaging in right now.

I can assure the hon. member that we are looking at a new strategy. We will be consulting with a wide variety of organizations. If he is the member from his caucus who sits on this parliamentary committee, then he will have a full opportunity to travel across Canada and hear the briefs and representations from various organizations. He can apply his own wisdom and experience to the problem. This is something we intend to do. In the meantime, as I have said, we are faced with a very major problem of creating work in the short-term, so that we have something available for Canadians while this review is taking place. That is why we announced the programs on Monday.

They are not necessarily the total strategy, but they are indicators of the kind of direction in which we would like to go, the kind of incentives we are offering employers to provide

work for women in non-traditional work. There is increasing emphasis upon training programs, particularly the additional \$10 million which is a 50 per cent increase in that program for native people to begin working on native projects. Those are the kinds of areas we want to go into.

We are establishing an experimental program of local economic development. It will have 15 to 18 to 20 pilot projects across Canada. They will provide long-term jobs and economic development across Canada. We could not get into a massive program of that kind until we saw how it actually worked. But we put enough money into our spending to provide a wide variety of long-term community economic development programs in communities across the country. As we evaluate them as part of our over-all review, and if they seem to have real promise, then we will incorporate them in a much larger way.

We are using our job-creation programs that we announced on Monday to provide us with an indicator of where we might go to deal with contemporary and future problems in the employment field. It is all designed to come up with an answer which I hope will provide us with good strategies that will be useful for the next eight to ten years.

**Mr. Hawkes:** On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, perhaps the minister made a mistake. I think he said that he had increased the funds to Indians for their economic development by 50 per cent. Did I hear correctly? If that is what he said, he might wish to change it. Also, before we move on, I wonder if the minister would care to clarify why the things he just finished saying were not in his statement on Monday?

**The Chairman:** The hon. member for Winnipeg North has the floor. The minister will have an opportunity to make comments. It seems to me that it is a comment rather than a point of order.

**Mr. Hawkes:** I thought the minister might want to correct the statement about Indians in particular.

**Mr. Orlikow:** It has been said that the road to hell is paved with good intentions. After listening to the minister, I would suggest the road to hell also is paved with past studies. This country has been buried in studies done at the federal, provincial, and municipal levels. While I will be happy to act on that new parliamentary committee, task force, or whatever its title will be, I do not believe that there are any new ideas. I agree with the minister that very few people predicted in advance the intensity of the recession we are in now. But we have known for a number of years some of the fundamental problems we have in the country. These are problems which developed not while the minister was in office but while his party and his colleagues were in office.

Let me list some of those problems very quickly. I know we will have lots of time to discuss them on other occasions. It is now obvious, as many people have been pointing out for years, that our whole industrial strategy, or lack of strategy, has meant that our major manufacturing organizations, which are Canadian subsidiaries of multinational corporations, have been geared not to be so efficient that they are able to compete for