

Routine Proceedings

the conclusion reached by all studies so far. We are not re-inventing the wheel.

To deny Canadians an opportunity to speak to each other in a broad national dialogue amounts to rejecting all the wisdom that has come down to us through the ages. The national dialogue on prosperity which we started this week will not be interrupted or delayed for even one day by the implementation of other important measures. I announced one of those measures today: The allocation of funding totalling \$1.8 billion.

This may be an historic step but it is only the first step. The situation in the world today demands a much closer partnership involving all parties.

[English]

Hon. members in this House and all Canadians will want to know that the board has made specific recommendations on the amount of money which should be allocated to training and adjustment programs in 1992.

The board also recommended in this budget allocating the following sums to each of five programs: \$100 million for work sharing; \$120 million for job creation; \$1,005 million for income support while training; \$500 million training course costs; and \$75 million for self-employment. This total of \$1.8 billion represents a significant increase in the level of funding for these developmental uses.

During the 1980s funding remained in the range of \$300 million to \$500 million and this new level of funding for 1992 delivers on the commitment made by the government during the debate on Bill C-21.

Of even greater importance, in the great debate on the free trade agreement, this government committed to put adjustment programs in place for displaced workers. We often hear that there are no such programs. This is the tangible proof of the government's commitment to workers in Canada.

Many of those who are unemployed today will now receive, because of this new level of expenditure, new opportunities to gain the high wage jobs that the FTA and other economic measures are bringing to Canada. Every hon. member, I am sure, will want to acknowledge that the efforts this government invested in developing the labour force development strategy and in creating

this historic board has yielded tangible results. With the effort and support of all parties at the table, the strategy is working and working well.

In conclusion, I know that I am going to be followed by people on the other side. I expect the Liberals to stand up in this House and apologize to all Canadians for having held up the implementation of Bill C-21 which has delivered the kind of money which people who are unemployed in this country badly need. So I cannot wait for his apology.

Mr. Maurizio Bevilacqua (York North): Mr. Speaker, right from the offset I tell the minister that we on this side of the House have no intention of apologizing to the minister and his government for any vision that we have for prosperity in this nation.

During our years in government we were truly committed to the issue of training. We were truly committed to a vision that would bring prosperity to Canada.

While we, on this side, are obviously disappointed with the statement and the proposal made by the government, we are not however at all surprised. While the government enjoys speaking about global competitiveness, prosperity agenda, learning culture and all the other catch phrases that are designed by some media gurus in the backrooms, we are looking at the substance of this government. When we look at substance in the area of training, when we look at the indifference that this government has shown in the past seven years in the area of training and education, it does not auger well for the future of this country nor does it auger well for the future of our children.

I think we in this House should always be mindful that every decision we make as a government is going to have an impact on the future.

Today's statement by the minister is a clear indication that once again this government is abdicating its responsibility to the unemployed people of this country. This government has been a government that has been involved in shell games, taking credit for moneys and commitments that certainly do not come from the government itself, but are commitments that come on the back of unemployed Canadians, those individuals who need our help the most.