

The Budget—Mr. Atkey

budget. It is also an area where my department intends to make its contribution as I shall explain later on.

[English]

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, we will encourage the private sector to play its full role in employing people, whatever their sex, age, ethnic or cultural background. We will be doing this in complete realization of current and future social and demographic changes. Some examples are the increasing participation and rising expectations of some in the labour market, the aging of the baby boom generation, alterations in family size and structure, and the aspirations of native Canadians.

Finally, we will be helping individuals increase their employability in situations where they are willing to work but where lack of information, lack of funds or lack of opportunity prevents them from obtaining the training and experience they need. At the same time this will help employers get the skilled people they need. We must also recognize that there are some individuals so lacking in basic qualifications that they are not acceptable to employers even when economic conditions are buoyant. For such individuals, we intend to provide assistance which will allow them, in time, to make their own way in the labour market.

The key to resolving the employment problems of young Canadians and others who have difficulty obtaining employment is more jobs. And, as we all know, the expansion of the private sector is the key to creating more jobs. That is why working in partnership with the private sector is at the centre of this government's approach to our future expansion. It is also why I am today giving notice of a ways and means motion setting out the income tax changes necessary to support a major new program of private employment incentives. Pursuant to Standing Order 60 I wish to table a notice of ways and means motion, and I would ask you, Mr. Speaker, to designate an order of the day necessary for the consideration thereof. The incentive will be a tax credit of \$80 per week for each eligible worker for a minimum of 13 weeks up to a maximum of one year. A work week must be a minimum of 35 hours subject to any collective agreement regarding a normal work week.

We hope to have the private employment incentives program in effect early in February, 1980. I hope that the motion will be considered by this House very soon after conclusion of the general budget debate. If the motion is accepted, it is my intention to introduce the necessary legislation.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McCain): Order. Is it the pleasure of the House that the minister should table a motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Atkey: The basic intent of the legislation is to stimulate employment by allowing employers to claim the \$80 weekly tax credit in return for providing jobs under certain conditions. In the event that an employer would not be able to use the tax credits in a given year, it would be possible to carry them forward for up to five years.

[Mr. Atkey.]

The two elements of the program will be concerned with, first, the incremental employment of youth, and second, with improving or maintaining the employability of people with hiring handicaps, particularly youth, natives, older workers, women re-entrants into the labour force and the disabled. These elements are to come into effect in early February, 1980. If the private sector responds as I anticipate, we will be able to place in private sector jobs before the next fiscal year draws to a close up to 105,000 unemployed young people.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Atkey: Of this total, 89,000 young people will be placed in new private sector jobs that did not exist before; an additional 16,000 young people with severe difficulties in obtaining continuing employment will also be placed in private sector jobs. On top of all this, some 15,000 older Canadians who have had such severe difficulties will also be placed in private sector jobs.

Whether we reach the placement ceilings under either the incremental element or the employability element will depend a great deal on the response we get from the leaders of business and industry. We will be appealing to them to join with us in an all-out effort to create employment opportunities for Canadians, and especially young Canadians.

In addition to forging a partnership with the private business and industrial sectors, we want to co-operate with the voluntary sector in creating jobs directly for youth. Although the voluntary sector has demonstrated a tremendous capacity to perform an invaluable service function, as witness their efforts in the case of the Indo-Chinese refugees, such organizations have been largely untapped as a potential source of concrete work experience for young men and women.

● (1720)

Through a new national youth service program I expect that about 14,000 young people will, by the end of the fiscal year 1980-81, be enlisted by the voluntary sector to render a service to their country, their province or their community rather than having to depend on unemployment insurance benefits or welfare. We should make special efforts to seek the active participation of women's groups in this program. The national youth service program is to be funded at a level of at least \$70 million in the year 1980-81.

[Translation]

We especially want to help the young people who are really disadvantaged and who are in great need of assistance. We do not want to repeat some of the mistakes of the Opportunities for Youth and Local Initiatives programs where, in many cases, middle and upper class young people financed their own little projects with public funds without the country or the community being able to benefit from it. By obtaining the participation of recognized organizations which have already proven that they can bring their services to those most in need, we believe that the emphasis will be placed less on innovation for its own sake and more on better opportunities to implement