

*National Training Act*

At this point it is being used to funnel millions of dollars into western Ontario ridings whose members currently sit on the government side of the House. They are in trouble politically. Voters in Kitchener will recognize pork barrelling for what it is and it will not help the member for Kitchener (Mr. Lang) in the next election. Are we now to assume that the Kitchener riding has national importance?

The Minister of Employment and Immigration informs me that his ministry will be monitoring the Bancroft situation. The word monitoring is a catchword which says that if the people who are affected live in a Conservative riding, we will watch them being thrown out of work. Does the minister not realize that he is playing games with people's lives and their livelihood? In the Sudbury area approximately 26 per cent of the labour force work directly in the mining industry compared to 83 per cent in the Bancroft area. There will be a tremendous upheaval if this uranium mine shuts down in this community.

The type of job skills required to live in the North Hastings area around Bancroft are skills for which no "national occupational training program" will ever provide training. These people are independent and have learned to be versatile, regardless of government interference. It is a life to be envied and one I do not wish to see disturbed.

What is an occupation of national importance? I see the situation where a regional shortage may be deemed not to be of national importance, a region where there exists a shortage in all occupations, but which in the eyes of the Canadian Employment and Immigration Commission is not sufficiently serious to justify special action.

The tendency in the past has been to attract skilled workers from other countries to fill jobs in Canada. The minister wishes to reverse this trend. Canada will now have skilled workers to export to other countries where the jobs will exist.

Can this government not see the real problem? Is it so bankrupt of ideas, so old and tired that it does not see a frustrated populace? Canadians are tired of the federal government fighting with the provinces, and tired of the relentless empire building of Ottawa.

Occupational training for the work place in a changing work environment is a worthwhile goal. I would like to see a system implemented that encourages our provincial educational systems to assess students at an early age for occupational aptitude and direct students into training programs at an early age to remedy current and future skilled-trade shortages that Bill C-115 is attempting to redress.

I am in favour of the intent of Bill C-115, regardless of my pessimistic comments concerning federal government participation in educational matters. However, I do believe employment is the key solution to restoring confidence in the Canadian economy to promote private sector growth. There are some well-meaning programs that currently exist that can be used effectively to encourage this confidence. Instead of speculating about possible future shortages, let us protect existing jobs and work for their preservation and expansion. Business and labour need a sensible, stable, long-term industrial strategy if they are

to be able to plan their future requirements. We have in Canada an abundant supply of resources in raw material and human resources.

During this worldwide recession, Canadians should be on top, not thirteenth on the list of nations behind such countries as Switzerland and Luxembourg. Canadians ask why countries like Germany and Japan, which import large amounts of raw materials and petroleum, have such vibrant economies while Canada's economy is suffering.

People respect hard-earned success and action in the face of challenge. In my riding I have constituents who are surviving only by being jacks-of-all-trades. They repair their own vehicles and cut their own wood for heating. They grow as much of their own food as possible just to make ends meet. Still this federal government demands more.

The Canadian government should make the creation of jobs, with a comprehensive industrial policy, its highest priority. When our people are working and our plants are at capacity, then perhaps the government can direct its talents to training manpower needs for the jobs of the future. The government must start within Canada to solve the real problems affecting Canadians before it goes off searching for other problems. We need to ensure that industry and business in Canada survive the current economic recession and grow to compete and serve markets both in Canada and abroad. This goal is vital, basic, and requires immediate government attention.

This nation has more than 700,000 small businesses. The wave of bankruptcy among these businesses, up 22 per cent from 1980 and up 37 per cent in the first quarter of 1982 over the same period last year, threatens the lifeblood of this country. The government has refused to address the problems being faced by so many. Small business needs help now as it is a vital contributor to employment in the Canadian economy.

One example of an area in which the federal government could direct some creative energy is the textile, clothing and shoe manufacturing industries. A comprehensive industrial strategy that looks hard at the needs and concerns of these industries would protect jobs for which the federal government wants to establish training programs. Between August of 1981 and May of this year there has been a net loss of 320,000 jobs, 157,000 of them in the manufacturing sector alone.

We have not moved forcefully enough in limiting the number of Japanese autos being imported into Canada or in working out some arrangement whereby Canadian jobs are created by the Japanese auto makers in Canada. Workers in the auto industry clearly are in an occupation of national importance. The preservation of those jobs is of national significance. A training program for non-existent jobs in the auto industry is of no significance.

Let us have an economic program that will give encouragement to labour and industry and the incentive for all Canadians to work and rebuild this great country to a place of prominence among industrial nations of the world.