

*Employment*

document whose source is Canada Employment and Immigration. It indicates the status of job entry programs as of June 30, 1986. I should like to put a few of them on record.

Of a total expenditure of some \$17,738,000 in Ontario as of June 30, 1986, almost half or some \$8.8 million was spent in the unlicensed sector. We also find that colleges received \$1.8 million; schools, \$1.5 million; private vocational schools, \$2.2 million; non-profit organizations, \$1.8 million; and subcontracts to colleges, under \$500,000.

I should like to refer to my very last point. Of the 161 projects in Ontario as of June, 1986, 70 of them went to unlicensed organizations. The community associations to which I have referred are concerned about that direction of the Government. Perhaps some government Members could respond to those concerns later. I have referred to the comments of these organizations. They were not partisan comments by any politician on either side of the House.

*[Translation]*

Thank you, Madam Speaker, for your kindness towards me this afternoon. You are very nice.

*[English]*

**Mr. W. Paul McCrossan (York-Scarborough):** Madam Speaker, it is with pleasure I rise to participate in the debate today. Upon reading the motion my first impression was perhaps to agree with it. Any Government should be constantly reviewing its policy on employment and the thrust of its employment programs. Any Government should be looking at the role of social and community organizations in its job strategy.

However, the implication in the motion is flawed. It is indicated that the Government has not been doing that. Obviously the Government has been much more active in terms of redesigning job programs than any recent Government. Certainly our activities in the non-profit field—and the previous Hon. Member who spoke challenged me to refer to it—have been very active.

Recent economic forecasts indicate that the Canadian economy will experience significant real growth in the future. As a result, Canadian workers should enjoy improved employment prospects. However, these better times will not be shared equally by all Canadians. The seriousness of the situation and the changing demands of the labour market call for new approaches to the problem if Canadians are to have improved employment opportunities now and in the future.

In response to the employment needs of Canadians, the Government has undertaken several initiatives. For example, it has undertaken a major restructuring of labour market policies to assist all workers and has recently entered into an agreement with the provinces and the territories to increase the labour market opportunities of social assistance recipients. In large part the voluntary sector deals with such recipients. I can assure the Hon. Member that the initiatives contain strong

community focus and involvement which effectively strengthen the interests of community and social organizations.

All Canadians who wish to hold a job can now look to the future with greater expectations with the Government's new strategy to prepare Canadians for the changing labour market—the Canadian Jobs Strategy. Because the strategy is based upon consultations with Canadians concerning their greatest needs, it addresses a wide variety of employment and training needs which range from labour shortages in some areas to the requirements of lower skilled and disadvantaged Canadians who would otherwise have little hope of ever entering the labour market. The flexibility of this new approach to the employment needs of all Canadians ensures that particular community and local needs will be addressed.

● (1740)

Briefly, the Canadian Jobs Strategy is a blueprint for revitalizing Canada's labour market. Currently it has six programs which have been created to meet immediate needs and to offer a framework for national action. They are not the final solution, but they are just specific and pressing problems.

Skills Investment, the first program, helps workers whose jobs are threatened by changing technology. The second program, Job Entry, helps young people and women to get their first job.

With respect to the challenge thrown out by the Opposition, it is worth noting that with the job entry programs in the last fiscal year some 47 per cent of the moneys was distributed to the non-profit sector. So far this year distribution is running at 57 per cent, hardly indicating that the motion has validity.

The third program, the Job Development Program, offers meaningful assistance for the long-term unemployed. Just looking at this program, we can see also that the motion is flawed. In the last fiscal year 63 per cent of the moneys under this program went to the non-profit sector, 28 per cent to the private sector and 9 per cent to the municipal sector. This year, so far, we are running at 54 per cent to the non-profit sector with a decrease in the private sector to 18 per cent and an increase in the municipal sector to 28 per cent, exactly what the motion would suggest we are not doing, namely, putting money into non-profit and community organizations. Fourth is the Innovations Program which stimulates the search for new initiatives. Fifth is the Skill Shortages Program which ensures that critical skill shortages are alleviated. Sixth is the Community Futures Program which offers help to workers in communities facing chronically high unemployment, plant closures or massive lay-offs. So far, Madam Speaker, 90 communities have been selected. There is an obvious commitment by the Government to communities to give communities a voice in their own futures, exactly what the Hon. Member's motion is suggesting. I think the Member should be applauding us for doing what we are doing rather than suggesting in some way that we have been negligent.