

*Income Tax Act*

According to a departmental survey, the program is reaching established members of the labour force who have been working for ten or more years. The average trainee is 27 and is usually married with dependants. A substantial portion of the program continues to serve younger people whose formal training has been insufficient to make them competitive in the labour market.

The aims and objectives of the Canada Manpower training program may be categorized as both long- and short-term. In the area of short-term objectives we can include making the individual more employable through the acquisition of new skills, accelerating growth in traditionally slow growth areas and facilitating manpower mobility. Long-term objectives include ensuring an adequate supply of productive manpower to meet the requirements of the economy and narrow the gap between its potential and actual performance, and maintaining and improving the competitive position of Canada in relation to other countries.

The success of the program may be gauged in financial terms. Preliminary estimates of a cost-benefit study of the over-all effectiveness of the program confirm a ratio of benefits to costs of approximately \$2 to \$3 for every \$1 of real investment in the program. I think it may be stated that from modest beginnings four years ago when it was introduced to meet a developing need in the economy, the Canada Manpower training program has become a major instrument in adapting to new technology, overcoming regional disparity and providing new income for the disadvantaged.

• (8:00 p.m.)

[Translation]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger):** Order. The time allotted to private members' business having expired, I do now leave the chair until eight o'clock.

At six o'clock the House took recess.

**AFTER RECESS**

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

**GOVERNMENT ORDERS****INCOME TAX ACT**

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Gray (for Mr. Benson) that Bill C-259, to amend the Income Tax Act and to make certain provisions and alterations in the statute law related to or consequential upon the amendments to that act, be read the second time and referred to the committee of the whole, and the amendment thereto of Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West) (p. 7763).

**Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** I think I am just on time, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to discuss Bill C-259 and the amendment dealing with unemployment, inflation and industrial

[Mr. Dupras.]

development. This bill is nevertheless of prime importance in Canadian life.

The white paper which was tabled a year ago, discussed and attacked by some people is nevertheless valuable. Tabling such a white paper was a good idea indeed. This allowed groups and associations to discuss it and submit the necessary amendments.

Later on, many representations were made, and the government studied the required changes in depth. Those were also interpreted variously by the members. Some briefs accused the government of having backtracked, but the white paper allowed organizations to make representations. This procedure should be followed again in the future: it gives the opportunity of suggesting ideas as well as improvements.

Bill C-259 differs widely from the white paper. This proves that the government tried to offer the public a policy to be discussed. The changes in Bill C-259 prove that the government was willing to take into consideration quite a number of the representations made, which is all to its credit. We have before us an amendment dealing with the problems of inflation and unemployment. It definitely has some merit. It cannot be said that all policies introduced by the government over the past three years have had the results anticipated. Nevertheless, it is inaccurate to blame it all on the government. In all honesty, I repeat that because of the difficult economic situation the government failed to achieve the desired results.

Must I repeat here that if the Canadian government bears sole responsibility for our economic problems heads of state throughout the world have not fared better with administration, since the economic difficulties are world wide.

• (8:10 p.m.)

We have every reason in the world to make, in this House, as many constructive suggestions as possible, not in order to embarrass the government, as some take pleasure in doing, but to help it. Such is the role of every member in this House. If we performed the task assigned to us by our constituents, we would achieve much more concrete and beneficial results for society.

Bill C-259 contains good solutions. For instance, the personal exemption which has been increased from \$1,000 to \$1,500 for single taxpayers, and from \$2,000 to \$2,850 for married people. Need I point out to the ministers that, with the high cost of living, I would have wished, of course, like many others, that these exemptions be increased at least to \$5,000 in the case of married people. We all recognize, Mr. Speaker, that a salary of \$100 a week is not unduly high nowadays, considering the cost of living.

I must also give recognition to the government's efforts. Judging by the statement made by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson) a few months ago, this bill is supposed to be of great value. I feel that the good will shown by the government is significant. Of course, we must continue to ask for more and to do better. I do not want to limit myself to criticism nor to discuss every clause of this bill. It has not lacked publicity and most hon. members are well aware of its effects.