

Quebec, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and some part of western Canada, and so provide work for more people.

There is another program, Mr. Speaker, to which I referred earlier, and which I feel is one government program precisely to promote the development of as many industries as possible in our region. I am referring to the LEDA program, that is, Local Economic Development Assistance. Last year, Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to be involved in announcing one of these projects in eastern Quebec, namely on the Magdalen Islands which are part of my riding, because with unemployment rates as high as the ones I mentioned earlier, we need this kind of program.

In our area, Mr. Speaker, the problem is that although we do have entrepreneurs and people who have a certain amount of capital and ideas to contribute to the development of our economy, the stumbling block is always either a lack of technical assistance or some risk capital. With the program created by the Department of Employment and Immigration, in co-operation with the Department of Regional Economic Expansion, we will now be able to help these people through the critical phase of installing or establishing a factory or a company, until they can operate on a permanent basis. Obviously, requests for these programs are received from areas throughout Canada.

Indeed, 13 projects are now under way or on trial, and I am sure that others will be forthcoming. Mr. Speaker, it must also be added that such programs, especially this one, are not intended to replace banks, credit unions and other lending institutions. It merely supplements those lending institutions, and the groups interested in that project must apply first to a lending institution or to the Federal Business Development Bank. Now, as can be seen, this very important program could assist rural and semi-rural areas where permanent jobs could be created. We are accused of failing to create permanent jobs throughout the country. Mr. Speaker, I have just pointed out a very important program which will enable us to create permanent jobs in various areas.

There is also another program, Mr. Speaker, that has a low profile but is extremely important, the Local Employment Assistance Program commonly known as LEAP. As I said, the program is aimed at people in difficulty, because in high unemployment areas or areas with special problems, some individuals have difficulty first finding a job and secondly keeping it. I think there are specific problems in that respect in a number of areas, but our goal with LEAP is indeed to address that problem. It enables individuals to work on a three-year basis in a given field in order that they may acquire the skills needed to find and keep a job. These programs are on a 12-month basis at first, with an adjustment or program development phase, and \$100,000 grants are allotted for their inception.

Then in the operational phase, that extends over a three-year period, as I said, \$275,000 is paid in grants to cover up to

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50 per cent of salaries within a given industry. Again I can state, Mr. Speaker, that my constituency has benefited from the program. Our friends opposite might be interested to know that in the constituency of Bonaventure we succeeded in creating five industries that are extremely important and will give permanent employment to local people. This is the main thing, Mr. Speaker, to be able to work on a permanent basis. That is why these programs are extremely important and must be maintained.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to come back to another program that is also most important, the Community Development Projects program. It is also a program that is aimed at a group of people that otherwise could not progress any further.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier):** I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member but his time has expired.

• (1710)

[English]

**Hon. John Wise (Elgin):** Mr. Speaker, this motion is a New Democratic Party motion, and I am certain this is the first time in a very long time that the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) is not in his seat. I do not know whether the hon. member is watching this debate today, but I am certain that he will be reading *Hansard* and I want to express my best wishes to him for a very speedy recovery.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Wise:** The motion put forward today uses such phraseology as "the largest number of pre-Christmas lay-offs", and that brings to my mind lay-offs in automotive industry, and also the farm equipment industry which has been dealt with previously. The motion also uses the word "depression", and that obviously reflects the state of the Canadian agricultural industry today. The motion uses the words "a cynical reversal of the government's election promises", and that is nothing new.

I want to make it perfectly clear that I have equal regard and equal compassion and concern for all the citizens of this country who are fighting, but failing, to maintain their homes, their businesses or their farms. My desire would be to deal equally with all these groups. However, because of the lack of time and my special responsibility in this House, I must deal with the latter group, the Canadian food producers and farmers. In doing so I refer to this country's basic and most vital industry, the food production industry. I will not be speaking just about the 5 per cent of Canadians who produce food nor just the 25 per cent of Canadians who are employed either directly or indirectly in the total food chain, nor just the 23 million or 24 million people in this country, but, indeed, the many human beings who reside throughout what could be described, without any stretch of the imagination, as the hungry world.

As I indicated earlier, seldom, with the possible exception of certain isolated cases in the great depression of 1929, can one