

its dwindling constituency of supporters that it now says, "We must fight to the end of the trenches." That party is the Maginot line of Canadian politics, Mr. Speaker, and it will pay the price.

We have gone beyond the major stimulus to the economy that I have mentioned to bring in special measures to help workers who face problems of readjustment. Under the industrial labour adjustment program, \$167 million has been allocated to designated communities whose economies are suffering. This program is beginning to work. Under that program close to 17,000 workers in four communities have been assisted. When hon. members opposite ask, "What are you doing?", I say, "Talk to those workers who have gained retraining assistance, new counselling, new jobs and new mobility as a result of government initiatives."

● (1420)

ILAP has been particularly designed to deal with industrial adjustment programs. Also we introduced additional programs to deal with workers in the marketplace who face particular problems in obtaining access or opportunities. A year ago we brought in a new program to help train women in non-traditional work, with the recognition that women had been "ghettoized" in their occupations and that they required opportunity to broaden their scope. In this fiscal year alone we added close to 3,500 training places for women in non-traditional work to the program. We did it in co-operation with the private sector and unions. This goes back to our basic commitment to work with other sectors of the economy to bring about improvement.

When we talk about the problems of young people in the country, I should like to indicate that at the same time we provided a number of special initiatives to meet their needs. It may interest hon. members of the House to know that close to 40 per cent of the people who use our employment programs are young people below the age of 24; they are the people who use our training programs. In this particular fiscal year over 119,000 young people are in our manpower training programs, over 35,000 are in our industrial training programs, and we have provided 50,000 direct employment jobs for young people. Also we have provided counselling services for over one million young people and over 300,000 placements through summer youth employment programs. The total comes to almost two million young people who used the services of the federal government this fiscal year to obtain employment assistance. When hon. members opposite say that we are not paying attention to young people, I say that we are making a major effort. I am not saying that it is adequate or that we should not do more. We are trying to do more, but to totally deny there is opportunity and to deny the fact that anything is happening is simply fabrication.

Mr. Orlikow: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I wonder whether the minister would permit a question.

Some hon. Members: No.

Supply

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please. The hon. member can ask his question only if there is unanimous consent, but I distinctly heard a "no".

Mr. Axworthy: I should like to return to one of the most important initiatives we have taken over the past several months to deal with long-term employment problems in Canada. One essential matter we must face is the need for a much more productive work force with the necessary skills for the new jobs of the future. We recognize that close to \$900 million spent on training programs oftentimes resulted in people being trained for jobs that were not there. Industry is changing, the economy is changing, but with the help of the parliamentary task force chaired by the hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce-Lachine East (Mr. Allmand), involving hon. members on both sides of the House, we were able to put together a brand new national training program to revamp and reform totally federal initiatives on training and to provide leadership for the provinces and the private sector.

We have a training program which is appropriate for the 1980s. We have provided new incentives for training women in non-traditional work. We have provided incentives for disadvantaged workers. We have begun to shift into the area of high-skilled work through a substantial enhancement of and additions to the critical trade skills program. We have established a brand new planning system in Canada with the involvement and co-operation of provincial governments, unions and the private sector, to work out on an annual basis proper estimates of shortfalls in skills and how to employ our training resources to meet those shortfalls.

We have proposed a major modernization program for training institutions. We are prepared to put millions of dollars into community colleges across Canada, so that they can purchase new equipment, create new laboratories and hire the necessary faculty to develop a new modernized training system to meet job demands of the 1980s and obtain a more productive work force. This is a major initiative—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please.

Mr. Orlikow: I wonder whether the minister would entertain a question.

Some hon. Members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): This can be done only with unanimous consent, as the hon. minister has used up all his time, but that unanimous consent is not forthcoming.

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, we on this side of the House and the people of Canada have known for a long time that in looking at the policies and the attitude of the Liberal government, no government in the history of Canada has been demonstrated to be more intellectually bankrupt and morally indifferent to the concerns of the ordinary people of the land. If we consider what Liberal members promised in the 1980 election campaign and compared it with what happened since then, the evidence is beyond contention.