

through under those programs, and even some companies and institutions pitched in so that a great many people, thousands of my fellow citizens, have been able to earn an honest living while doing something useful for the community. Our intention is to maintain those programs and to encourage people to undertake worthwhile projects under them.

With respect to social welfare, we realize now that it is becoming increasingly imperative for the well-being of our community and Canada as a whole to make sure that people who are penalized because they lack adequate training or face job shortages can benefit from some of those programs with a view to becoming active in their community and eventually finding gainful employment.

In this regard, Hon. Members learned last week that the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Miss Bégin) had signed an agreement with the Quebec Minister of Manpower and Employment Security under which the Canadian Government agreed to increase its contribution by about \$60 million over two years to enhance the social assistance program.

Now let us see how these funds will be used to improve the welfare of all the young people who will benefit from them, and I mention young people because this program is intended for those under 30. In addition to receiving the social assistance to which they are entitled, they will be getting an additional amount of \$150 a month. Three avenues will then open to them. First, they may continue their secondary or even post-secondary education. They may also gain experience in the workplace by way of contacts with businesses and non-profit organizations, or alternatively institutions will be able to use the services of these young people who will then be gaining an extremely important experience in the workplace. In addition, these young people will be able to take part in projects to meet the needs of the community.

Mr. Speaker, you know as well as I do how extremely important it is to see that this whole section of our population, namely our young people under 30, is integrated as much as possible into what is usually considered a normal society, in other words, people who have as many opportunities to work as possible. However, you also know that in view of the deterioration of the economic situation, there have been serious problems; and if we add to this the thrust of technological changes and everything that will come up in the future, some of our fellow citizens are ill-prepared to take up these new challenges. The program I have just described and on which the federal and provincial Ministers have agreed will offer thousands of young people a very interesting opportunity to improve themselves by taking part in creative and innovative projects for the community.

I also want to deal with certain programs administered by the Department of Employment and Immigration. As I was saying, a number of young men and women have to return to the labour market and the Department of Employment and Immigration is offering them some very useful programs.

Borrowing Authority Act

Programs such as the Youth Job Corps and Career-Access even allow these young people to submit their own projects to the Department and do what they really want.

In particular, Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw your attention to a program developed by Employment and Immigration Canada and administered by the Department of National Defence. I do not believe that it is out of order for me to describe the use that is made of the tax dollars paid by the Canadian people and of the funds for which the Government requests some borrowing authority. In addition to the vast amounts used for the financing of established programs, particularly health and education, there are a number of programs which are necessary and which must be maintained. Mr. Speaker, I should like to draw your attention more particularly to a program which I find extremely interesting for young people. You do remember that the Department of National Defence was asked to develop and implement a whole system of training and employment for some 5000 young people, in its various centres in Canada. The goal we had in mind was to give these young people a special but rewarding training and at the same time an opportunity to explore some trades or professions otherwise unfamiliar to them. In my own area, in Rimouski, enlistment is done at the recruitment centres of National Defence, and 75 young people have taken advantage of that program. They have been with National Defence for a year now.

In the Sept-Îles area where employment problems are very serious, 75 young people have joined the program. In the Atlantic area, for example, 1,057 young people are with National Defence, 1,247 in the Quebec region, 1,809 in central Canada or Ontario, 1,103 in Western Canada. This means that 5,216 young men and women are with National Defence benefitting from a most interesting personal training. In addition, they can learn several trades in those various centres. For instance, those young people can find themselves in the bases in Cornwallis, St. John, Petawawa, Valcartier, Calgary, and so on, and get training in various skills or professions such as administration and finance, the postal service, all technical services. Training can be had in nearly all the trades connected with the navy, even in music, which is not to be disdained. This means that many thousands of young people are now availing themselves of a special program that is worthwhile, both for National Defence and society in general. I remember some parents who told me at home: Perhaps if you had fewer programs or no programs for the young, the Solicitor General or the Minister of Justice in some provinces might have to expand their facilities. It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that the programs now being offered by the Government of Canada, to women and young people in education or manpower training or the retraining programs for adults are absolutely vital and are only an addition to the normal services the Government of Canada should provide to all Canadians. In the light of the current situation, of course this is expensive. It is extremely