

Alleged Failure of Employment Policies

programs in Canada, the Canada manpower training program. By implication the suggestion is made that this program along with others is not working effectively in the interests of Canada. Recently we have had several examples of how this department responds in order to help the workers involved in the case of a lay-off or a technological change.

There are also training courses which go unmentioned and unsung until an error is made at a local office by an official who may have misinterpreted the directive, and then all hell breaks loose and people forget the day-to-day contributions that are being made to the people of Canada under this program.

We know of several recent examples, but let me take one or two from Nova Scotia because I started the day in the capital city of the province talking about development with the Premier. I want to mention the threatened closure of an important industry in the province, Fairey Aviation in Halifax. As hon. members recall an announcement had been made by the company that the plant would close at the end of March. Questions were asked in the House, but several departments of this government and of the provincial government had been working quietly in order to rescue that plant. The result of that quiet and effective work is that the plant has been rescued and a new operator has been secured, not by accident, not just by somebody wishing it, not by a question in the House but by the effective collaboration of three departments of the federal government. The Department of Regional Economic Expansion will provide a substantial incentive grant, the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce will provide a substantial development grant, and the Department of Supply and Services will renegotiate the contract that had been in existence with the former company.

The result is that Fairey Aviation has been transferred to a new owner and there will be the possibility now of a new technology in the Atlantic provinces, a new technology centre in Nova Scotia. There will be minimum disruption in employment levels and there will be a new element in the transportation industry of Canada. That is a success story.

There is another about EMI Electronics which had decided to give up and close down. Through the efforts of the Department of Regional Economic Expansion, through the efforts of my colleague, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Pepin), and those of the provincial government, that plant is also saved and will continue to operate. We

[Mr. MacEachen.]

hope it will be an even better source of employment to the people of that area.

We had the illustration in Toronto of the closing of the Dunlop plant. It is simple to ask questions in the House about an issue of that kind and it is relatively easy to give the answers. Fourteen manpower counsellors specially assigned to Dunlop registered all the unemployed workers. They listed their skills, they are seeking out jobs, they are examining training possibilities. They have that case well in hand. I regret it was not possible to have had the kind of economic analysis and examination for the benefit of workers that I advocated. At least we will have contributed some real input to the solution of this problem for the benefit of the workers.

● (4:30 p.m.)

I welcome this discussion of the Canada Manpower Department. We do not claim perfection, but we do claim we are making a businesslike, effective contribution with the resources available to us, to the manpower development of Canada. I will not go into the whole variety of programs that we administer in the placement field, in agricultural manpower, in student manpower, and in immigrant settlement. I will not go into manpower adjustment and manpower mobility, but I would like to talk about the Canada Manpower Program and the contribution it makes to the manpower development of the country.

In my department this year we will be spending a total of \$273 million to train adult workers in Canada. I want to tell the hon. member for Gander-Twillingate that we got \$25 million more for the budget this year than we did last year. We would have liked to have had more, but we were competing with other government departments for the available resources. We will be looking for more money next year, and if we have \$25 million or \$50 million more we could do more and train more.

Mr. Lundrigan: Are you expecting more unemployment next year?

Mr. MacEachen: I am not expecting more unemployment. The job we are doing is a necessary job in a period of unemployment. It is equally necessary in a period of economic expansion when jobs are opening up, and we have a responsibility to train adult Canadians for these jobs rather than take in people from abroad, as we do now in many cases. I think it is a good idea to encourage immigration. I simply indicate that we do take many people