

cities, where they in many cases fall by the wayside, end up without jobs, on welfare, or in the courts, suffering from alcoholism, drug abuse and so on. These are very serious matters.

I am, as I am sure is my party, terribly disappointed at the lack of understanding on the part of the government of the very legitimate needs of native North Americans, whether they live on or off the reserve, with respect to job creation and business enterprise. These two areas must go together in order that we may, first of all, make the reserves more viable economically, and secondly, but just as important, that we may make the reserves better areas of employment. This is what our native North Americans want. They do not want handouts; they want the same kind of entitlement and financial assistance which non-native North Americans are receiving off reserves in large and small communities.

I come back once again to this deplorably small sum of \$10 million which is allocated to train natives. I have a third question which I would like to ask of the minister. What will the natives who are trained under this native training program be trained for? Are they being trained to be mechanics in the city of Toronto, or skilled workers in Vancouver, or are they being trained in native skills for native industry which should be developing and, indeed, mushrooming on reserves?

I am not saying that Indians should be held on the reserves or that they should be forced to live on the reserves and be limited to searching for jobs in reserve related economic activities. I am saying that they should have the choice. If the native North Americans wish to remain on the reserves, then the government should make every effort to promote industry, large or small, such as native crafts, non-native crafts, or any kind of entrepreneurial enterprise, so that the natives may be trained in their own skills, if need be, or other skills.

I am very dissatisfied with the government's total package, both in terms of what the minister announced a couple of weeks ago with respect to the native training program and with respect to the tax credit bill which we are discussing in Committee of the Whole this afternoon. Despite the \$10 million which the minister is touting as a breakthrough in native North American training, I see virtually nothing in Bill C-19.

I have asked the minister several substantive questions. I shall not take up my full 20 minutes, but I anticipate that the minister will provide me with some substantive answers. I do not want the kind of answer in which he rattles on with a lot of figures, percentages, man-hours per year or woman-hours per year and so on. I want the minister to present his fundamental philosophy with respect to job creation and business development on Indian reserves and his basic philosophical approach to the very serious unemployment problems facing native people in Canada. What is his government prepared to do in a substantive way to alleviate these problems? Many of them are economic or material in origin. To what extent is the minister prepared to commit the government financially, over and beyond the \$10 million for this fiscal year, so that we can begin at last to embark on a long-range, upgrading, retraining

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or training program for native North Americans, whether they be on or off the reserve, in conjunction with the development of industry, whether it be native craft or non-native craft industries on reserves.

I have posed at least half a dozen questions. I ask the minister to open up to this House and tell us what he really believes this legislation will and will not do. Will the minister commit himself in this House to going beyond the \$10 million when it is financially possible—I hope that will be as soon as possible—so that we may finally put to an end the situation which exists on reserves or, at least, we can begin to see the end of the mass poverty and depression from which our native North Americans have suffered. This suffering is due primarily not only to the federal government's lack of compassion as shown through its pocketbook, but to its lack of compassion and understanding of the problems which face native North Americans in Canada.

**Mr. Axworthy:** Mr. Chairman, I agree with some of the assessments made by the hon. member. There is no doubt that the condition of native people in this country is serious. I had an opportunity to begin reading the report mentioned by the hon. member just last night. It details many of the ongoing and continuing problems which native people face.

However, it would be wrong for the hon. member to state in this House, and I wish to correct the record, that the only program of the government is the \$10 million native training program. This program is in addition to many other programs which are already in operation. If I may take a moment, I will outline those programs. For example, in my own department with regard to employment, we have the LEAP program which has a budget of over \$70 million for this year, of which \$30 million to \$40 million is allocated to native employment programs throughout Canada. It is one of the most successful employment programs the federal government has introduced, and provides long-term employment and economic development for a great number of status and non-status communities in Canada. A large proportion of that money is allocated to development work among the native people.

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In addition, my department has Outreach, the special employment counselling program where 40 per cent of the nearly \$10 million budget is spent on enabling native people to develop their own employment services in order to help bring people into the work force. Within the training program that \$10 million is simply a special increment. We spend well over \$800 million on a wide variety of training programs in which the native people participate to a degree greater than the percentage they represent of the total population. Last year close to 10,800 native people were added to training programs across Canada. I do not say that is enough as, of course, there is never enough. In the department we do not speak of expenditures of \$10 million but expenditures of well over \$100 million, and perhaps beyond that, on training and job creation for native people.