

\$14,040 and they gave us, in return, \$14,040 worth of goods and services; when they didn't work, we paid them more and they gave us nothing in return.

The costs of unemployment, since 1968, are equal to the National Debt. Nothing has really worked to make a dent in our unemployment or to speed up economic growth — not government help to business, not technology, not increasing exports, not cutting the size of government.

Only putting our jobless to work will work, will cut the deficit and speed growth without inflation. It is clearly better to pay the jobless to produce something that is needed than to do nothing. This would, at the same time, give them back a role in society and the dignity that goes with it.

A scheme paying the jobless, on average, as much as they had earned when working to produce essential goods or services, was tested in the computer models of the Economic Council of Canada and Informetrica. It was found workable; it did not increase inflation, the deficit, or tax rates. We realize that an average wage of \$14,040 is very little. However, this is the amount the average unemployed person earned

in 1985 before becoming jobless. It is hardly sufficient, but is 75% more than the \$8,100 they would get on U.I.

Through the use of such schemes and at no extra cost to governments, we could launch a national day care program; a campaign to eradicate illiteracy; provide home care for the elderly that would be better for senior citizens and save on hospital costs; repair infrastructures and slums. Participants would work four days a week and train one day a week, either to become better at the job they hold or to allow them to seek new jobs.

The structure that would be used in job-creation-plus-training schemes already exists at the local and provincial level; administrative mechanisms — both governmental and non-governmental — exist for the provision of many essential outputs: they do not have to be duplicated. Using such mechanisms in one province on a small scale would be an excellent pilot project for a national job-creation-plus-training scheme that other provinces could join if they wished.

All that is needed is the political will to create these jobs and to change attitudes.