

● (4:30 p.m.)

We do, of course, offer a great deal of training to our young people in the manpower training and retraining programs. In the 1970-71 year preliminary figures indicate that of a total of full-time trainees benefiting from the program of 275,118, 250,000 were persons under the age of 25 years. It is, of course, a serious challenge to our nation as a whole to know how best to adapt the training to the needs ahead. In our retraining programs we try in every possible way to examine the employment needs, the job prospects, and to relate the programs to these. Of course we do not do as hon. members opposite might seem to be suggesting, turn the tap on and off quickly and automatically whenever any apparent or slight surplus seems to occur in one particular area. We have viewed the longer term needs, and have tried to adjust the labour force and the training programs according to those longer term needs.

I would like to say to the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby (Mr. Broadbent) in this connection that the general level of co-operation between the Department of Manpower and Immigration and the provincial governments in connection with planning for training is very good indeed. There have been some areas of difficulty in this matter of co-operation, but progress is being made step by step in developing better reaction to the needs of the future. There is no doubt in my mind that we must continue to expand and improve the information we have available about the job opportunities, the labour needs, the technological forecasts, and their future implications, and that we must try to give this information as much as possible to the individual person seeking it in order that he may choose his own career.

I suggest this as the logical approach in a democratic country, but also perhaps as a logical place for the federal government to attempt to find a role where education is generally within the field of provincial governments. I am really suggesting that it may not be possible to develop any perfect over-all plan centrally which leads to particular kinds of training for our young people for specific job opportunities, but rather that by giving the best possible kind of information they themselves may exert their demands on institutions that lead to appropriate training and education as a result. Indeed, it is true that has been the ordinary way of development of educational patterns in this country, that is to say, a responding to demand for training places rather than any broad and comprehensive thinking by individual institutions about their role in the country's over-all employment pattern.

In the present period, not only do our training programs attempt to serve the needs of the young people but, of course, we have developed special services in terms of placement offices in an attempt also to deal with their special needs. Indeed, while the motion deals with the special problem of employment of young people, hon. members opposite quite naturally in effect ran away from that basic part of the motion because in response to the special needs of this group, recognizing the special size of the group entering the labour force, this govern-

#### *Employment Programs*

ment has mounted very important special programs to deal with the problem.

I refer to the total of perhaps about \$68 million which is being devoted to their special employment needs during the course of these summer months alone. There is a narrow line here of judgment about how much should be done or can be done for a particular group, a narrow line which finds hon. members opposite still urging us to do more, but a narrow line I know we could have so easily crossed in their view, so that they would have criticized us for over-emphasizing services to this group rather than under-emphasizing.

Hon. members opposite have referred to housing as a special category of activity which can be emphasized. They do this, of course, in the face of figures which show that we may be having an excellent year indeed in terms of housing and housing construction in this country. It is a serious problem, a need to be filled, and it is also a serious challenge and opportunity, in terms of employment and indirect employment throughout the economy.

Again, in the field of public housing, this government has been doing a tremendous amount to improve the availability of housing to those who need the housing so very greatly and for whom previous programs were not adequate. In the last two years more in the way of public housing will have been done than in the whole previous period of the program. This represents a very clear concern for the needs of the people of this country, and particularly of those who may be less fortunate than those people who can control and claim from society a higher and higher share of the available goods. I am speaking, of course, about this chronic and constant problem of those with power in this country who can claim in the way of compensation for their services, whether for labour or for capital, more than they ought to claim on reasonable grounds, and who therefore contribute to the inflation problem which has to be overcome in other ways.

In the examining of employment figures, Mr. Speaker, and figures of unemployment it is popular to compare figures for one period with another, and figures for one country with another, and this is done frequently without very much precision about what has changed or what is different in the comparisons. Between countries in particular very frequently the thing being examined is different. The questions being asked in terms of unemployment and employment are different. In terms of periods of time, even within this country of our's, there is a great deal of change in any three year, five year, or ten year period, in terms of the demands and the attitudes of the people of the country. These things must be borne in mind in comparing periods of unemployment with previous periods of unemployment.

Without much doubt there is a greater tendency today for many members of families who might not, in a previous decade, have sought to enter the labour force, to do so. This reflects itself in the fairly revealing analysis of families with unemployment problems, or families in which there is some unemployment. If in April, for