Then we got the LIP grant process and it was much different. Grants were initially made under the Local Initiatives Program for seasonal workers during the winter. Then they were replaced by Canada Works grants which were year round. We got to the point where the service club did not mean anything any more. The government had the money and it kept churning it out.

We have spent a great deal of the taxpayers' money, but we have not really solved our employment problems with these one year "bites at the apple". What concerns me most of all is that our initiative may be stifled and the public is losing sight of the role of the service clubs, community organizations, and chambers of commerce in Canada. I am convinced that service clubs, community organizations and chambers of commerce can perform community and service projects more efficiently and cheaply than most Canada Works projects.

We cannot reach the point where Canadians allow these handouts to stifle the concept that we try harder to do things for ourselves. We should know the need of our community and make an effort to fill that need. We should not expect that the need will be filled by the government.

The Speech from the Throne refers to a "new partnership with voluntary agencies and local organizations in a program of community service". The aim of that partnership should be to strengthen the role of the volunteer agencies and local organizations within a strong Canada. I suggest the ministry of state for social development can play a very important role in creating that partnership.

In closing, I commend the minister for his diligence in presenting this motion, but I urge him to make the preamble live in the eighties once this bill is approved. The execution of the concepts which are expressed in that preamble are vital to the future of Canada.

Mr. Robert Gourd (Argenteuil): Mr. Speaker, the programs of the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission are some of the federal activities most crucial to both the economic and social well-being of our country. They embrace three major program areas; unemployment insurance, the area of employment service designed to assist in the functioning of the labour market and, of course, immigration.

The $4 billion Canada spends annually on unemployment insurance is designed to help workers when they are between jobs. Since 1940 Canada has been one of the world leaders in the field of unemployment insurance and this government is determined that the unemployment insurance program will be fully effective to meet the needs of the 1980s.

The Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Axworthy) has already announced that there will be a review of the fundamentals of the unemployment insurance program and a high level task force is now being readied by the commission to take a careful look at how unemployment insurance should be arranged in the decades ahead. Since the early seventies, with the extension of the unemployment insurance program to virtually universal coverage, there have been a number of changes to the Unemployment Insurance Act.

Now it is time to review the effects of these and see how the program can be vectored better in light of social, economic, and unemployment conditions in the years immediately ahead.

● (2110)

Bill C-3, now before the House and awaiting second reading, proposes only two adjustments to the unemployment insurance program. It seeks to postpone the expiry of the ten- to 14-weeks entrance requirement until the review of fundamentals of the program is complete. Bill C-3 would adjust the financing of the unemployment insurance program. Earlier, a regulatory change was made which had transferred the administrative costs of the employment service—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. I should like to call the attention of the hon. member to the fact that it is not Bill C-3 which is before us. I wonder whether the hon. member is aware that the measure we are discussing relates to a proposed social development ministry.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Winnipeg-Birds Hill (Mr. Blaikie).

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, I had not anticipated I would be entering the debate so soon. I thank the hon. member for Argenteuil (Mr. Gourd) for the inappropriateness of his remarks. I wish him better luck next time.

I begin my remarks this evening on the motion to establish a ministry of state for social development by commenting on some of the statements made earlier by Conservative speakers on this subject. I am somewhat confused, now, as to the rationale behind the support the Conservative party has been giving to the establishment of this ministry of state, especially after listening to the well-articulated criticisms of this initiative by the hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath).

First, I think it is important to examine the claims which the government itself makes in support of this initiative. The Minister of Justice (Mr. Chrétien) said this afternoon it would be a ministry of co-ordination, and used the analogy of the Ministry of State for Economic Development; the ministry of social development would take an overview in the same way as the ministry of economic development is said to do. I do not know how other members feel, but to my mind the value and the power of the Ministry of State for Economic Development are very little indeed. Sometimes I wonder whether there is such a ministry; if it is happening it must be happening only at departmental level. In part this may be because the Minister of State for Economic Development (Mr. Olson) sits in the other place, but it reinforces my impression that these ministries of state whose intention is to oversee other departments are, in a sense, fictitious, in that they simply provide the context for another bureaucratic device to escape responsibility for decisions made in relation to certain departments.

Another claim made in support of this motion is that its intention is to integrate. But what is it to integrate? If we could truly believe that this was the beginning of a process by