

*Employment*

• (1710)

Mr. Speaker, several job-creation programs for students set up by the Department of Employment and Immigration and the Department of National Defence will provide this year 10,412 jobs to young Quebecers. It is, once again, a very practical step Mr. Speaker. Next summer, the number of young Canadians taking advantage of this opportunity will be over 43,000 for the entire country and 10,000 jobs will be earmarked for Quebec. I could also mention several other programs but I will only refer to the employment program in the field of new technology which will create this year 800 jobs in Canada, almost 300 of which will be in Quebec. This is action Mr. Speaker. I will mention as well the crucial role played on behalf of Canadians, especially our young people, by job-training programs for which this year alone the federal government will spend over \$880 million. In Quebec, those programs sponsored by Ottawa will be available this year to a total of 66,000 workers of whom 45,154 will be attending classes in institutions and 19,791 will learn on the job, to mention only the main sectors.

I could also refer to the training program and I see that my colleague, the hon. member of Manicouagan (Mr. Maltais), is citing Iron Ore as an example. One can mention the Iron Ore Co. as well as Sorel and now Montmagny-l'Islet. I think that those were practical steps taken by the government through the Department of Employment and Immigration, the Department of Trade and Commerce as well as all other intermediates. These are very interesting figures, Mr. Speaker. Incidentally, those figures clearly show that the Department of Employment and Immigration was justified in advocating that its new program which aims at providing Canadian workers with a better training for the eighties, include such courses which will qualify them in areas where employment opportunities are more easily available and salaries more attractive.

I mentioned a while ago the 44,850 jobs available in Quebec through the federal government but of course it happens sometimes that those jobs are filled in turn by several employees. This year 52,400 Quebecers will benefit. Now if we add to that figure the 66,000 others who have registered for training courses, we get a total of 118,400 Quebecers who benefit directly from the various programs designed for either job training or subsidized training which will enable workers to seek better jobs. Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that those figures lay to rest the pessimistic comments we heard earlier from hon. members opposite. And that is not all. The federal programs were especially geared to help women, native people, the handicapped and, generally speaking, all people who require special assistance to find a job and hang on to it. With respect to training, 620 women in Quebec this year took advantage of courses in trades which by tradition have been so far the preserve of men. Some 513 Quebec native people took special training courses, including a good many in the North Shore and Abitibi regions.

All told, 333,638 Canadians took those training courses, including, I repeat, 60,000-odd residents of the province of Quebec. Incidentally, I would like to point out again that the

federal government is making a generous contribution to training programs through the unemployment insurance fund. For instance, the Minister of Employment and Immigration has just revived the shared work program. As the hon. member for Joliette noted earlier, the minister has probably maintained some features of the programs launched by his predecessors, but certainly none of those promoted by the former employment and immigration minister when the hon. member for Joliette was responsible for supply and services. The present minister never misses an opportunity within cabinet or before the House to emphasize the active participation of the Government of Canada in the training and job-creation programs. I am confident that within the coming weeks and months, the minister will announce new measures which will prove to be as worth while as those which have been implemented over the past two years.

I have had the honour of being parliamentary secretary to the minister for two years. I can say that his dedication when it comes to job creation and job training is definitely not reflected in the speeches we hear from members opposite. The minister is deeply committed because he knows that the labour market is going through hard times right now, and that is why the government is doing something about it instead of laying low and making empty speeches. During the current fiscal year, \$200 million in unemployment insurance benefits are earmarked for training programs, including \$41,800 for the province of Quebec. With respect to the allocation of funds, I would point out also that the federal government will spend \$1,074,400 for various labour-related programs in 1981-82, and Quebec's share will be close to \$300 million, including \$185.2 million for job-training programs in that province.

It can therefore be seen, without denying the existence of economic problems which are not for that matter peculiar to Canada, since unemployment, for instance, is much more severe in other countries, that there are important and effective programs designed to improve the lot of our workers which benefit Quebec enormously. Also, Mr. Speaker, I must remind the House that we live in an ever-changing world and that technological advance causes disruptions which require that our training programs be completely updated. That is the type of activity in which task forces were involved last year from the Employment and Immigration Commission as well as the parliamentary group which included members of the opposition—the Allmand group—whose findings prompted the Minister of Employment and Immigration to prepare the new training program he recently introduced to the provinces at the Vancouver conference.

All I want to add is that I hope the province of Quebec, which has always received its fair share, as I have just shown, will continue to benefit from its participation in the Canadian endeavour, because in the next decade Canada will have more challenges and more new problems to face as well as more encouraging prospects than any other country in the world. This comes directly under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Employment and Immigration. I should like to go on for a while giving examples of concrete projects implemented over the past 18 months by the Canadian government and which