

technological change. Industries do go through transitions. We cannot as a government stop progress. We cannot say to industries which have been producing products for 30 and 40 years that when some new innovation comes along they should not produce, that we should subsidize and support false economies. Of course, when industry changes, jobs change too. We must provide some support for those communities which are hard hit.

It is not just government alone that has this responsibility. As a member of a party which establishes close alliances with trade unions, it might be helpful if the hon. member spoke to some of the unions about the kind of immobility which is built into certain agreements in the areas of pension plans and seniority rights. For instance, people who are laid off from work in Windsor refuse to go 100 miles down the road where there are jobs because they lose their seniority. I sympathize with them because that work is their basic right. That is why we have built into the industrial adjustment program ways of trying to promote mobility of workers so they can move their families and bring their talents and skills to areas where there are jobs.

The paradox being faced in Canada right now is that in certain regions of the country we are short of skilled workers. In western Canada alone we are short of 35,000 to 40,000 workers. It is difficult to provide a flow of people from areas where jobs are disappearing. Mobility is one of the real issues we must face in Canada. A worker in a community will build the home in which his family resides and will, of course, be reluctant to move. These workers have a vested commitment. It is their form of property rights. There has to be some support and protection of the rights of those workers.

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That is why the industrial adjustment program provides retraining assistance for those who want to be retrained, provides mobility assistance for those who want to move and provides industrial grants for bringing new jobs into areas. We admit this is an innovation. It is a new program. But we think it important to try this program in order to determine its effectiveness. If it works out we can begin to apply it in other communities across Canada.

The hon. member for Hamilton Mountain is wrong when he says there is no strategy. Of course there is, and it is there in the programs. It has been announced and is now being implemented. I suggest to the hon. member that rather than standing on his feet scorching the earth with the flame of his remarks, he might be far more effective if he looked at what is happening in Sydney, Windsor and Sorel and found out just how effective that program was for people in those communities. He would find out how important it was to give them some hope and opportunity for the future, to give them some choice as to the kind of future they want to face. It gets you nowhere to engage in false rhetoric. We would ask members of the parties opposite, particularly the New Democratic Party which has such a concern for the labour force in this country, to provide support for these kinds of initiatives, and to give us

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the kind of backing we need to develop and expand further programs. We will not get it from the Tories, we know that. They cut programs out. They do not provide that kind of assistance. The record shows they were not doing so. We might be able to look to members of the NDP for some assistance in this area.

Finally, we should also look at some of the efforts we have made in terms of training. There is no doubt in my mind that the one way to break through hard core unemployment is by providing new training skills and new opportunities.

The composition of the work force is changing. We are now going into the era of the 1980s when there will be far more demand for blue collar skills, for technical skills, for manufacturing and construction skills. We must prepare people for those opportunities. During the 1970s the major growth was in the service industry, in areas which provided tremendous opportunity for women and young people because they were the easiest to move into.

However, in the 1980s the work force is going to change. Job opportunities will be in the manufacturing, goods-producing and construction areas. Those are the areas from which a lot of people up to this time have been excluded. This is why in the revised critical skills training program we have tried to bring about a different combination of support, so that people can get on-the-job skilled training while having the opportunity to go to an institution to improve their academic skills. This is why we introduced the non-traditional program for women. They have found difficulty getting into new occupational areas. We are now providing major subsidies for people moving into areas to which they have been denied access.

Hon. members ask what we have done. On May 1 a brand new employment program will be introduced which gears the resources of this country toward assisting the disabled and handicapped, one of the groups which finds it most difficult to get employment. We will also be gearing our employment program toward the economically disadvantaged, those who have been out of the work force for 20 weeks. It will provide an 85 per cent subsidy to employers to bring them into the job market and will provide the re-entry about which the hon. member for Calgary West talked. He must have missed his mail or has not been looking at the paper on his desk, because there was an announcement that this program will be commencing on May 1.

This again is an attempt to target our employment training program at those groups which need help most. We want to zero in on exactly where help is needed. We want to get to the chronically unemployed, bring them in to the work force and supply the support needed to do that. We want to get the private sector employers interested in overcoming some of the biases or discriminations which have faced economically disadvantaged persons. We want to provide not only the subsidy rate for the handicapped person, but incentives to employers to change equipment and facilities; that is, to build ramps and bring in new equipment.

I do not consider this is necessarily all we can do, but it is a beginning. We have other important programs, like the eco-