

The Budget—Mr. Axworthy

Mr. Axworthy: The reality is that we are again using resources. Hon. members ask what the money is going for. The \$2.3 billion is going to create permanent long-term jobs through economic development programs, going into housing construction to create work in the housing field and the construction field across Canada, going into direct employment programs to help those young people who need first-time jobs and going into new ILAP programs so that we can help additional communities and the hon. member for Brant will not be the only one whose constituency gets those kinds of benefits, ungrateful as the hon. member may be. The fact is that that is the combination of programs we are providing for Canadians.

We are asked whether they are providing hope, direction and purpose. I think we should begin to look at what the figures really add up to. When we talk about jobs created in total by way of direct job creation in housing immediately in terms of this budget, we are talking about an additional 124,000 jobs, by estimate. We must add that to the previous programs announced, the existing job-creation programs already in our portfolios, plus the rental supply program and the renovations program. That is an additional 200,000 jobs. We are talking in terms of direct stimulus through this budget creating well over 300,000 additional employment opportunities to be provided to Canadians within this fiscal year.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Axworthy: That is by way of combination, but I point out that that has not been the only series of measures we have undertaken. We are just now going through the last stages of debate in the Senate of the training bill which was passed in this House last week. That legislation will put \$1 billion into community colleges and industry and on-the-job training programs across Canada. It will provide new training opportunities for over 300,000 Canadians. That will provide for additional funds going into those places to provide new equipment and new facilities.

In terms of a larger growth strategy and in terms of the longer-term program of aiming at economic development, we must go back to the last November budget papers in which we put forward a series of measures. Those are also proceeding at the same time. The training bill provides \$1 billion. The modernization of the transportation system in western Canada is a \$13 billion program with \$3.5 billion being contributed by the national government. Major programs are going ahead in the areas of research and the establishment of microelectronic centres across Canada to develop research and development in that critical area of microchip programs. The measures brought in in this budget to provide a special response and direction must be looked at in parallel with the measures introduced last November, which are proceeding and are now being implemented and brought into effect to provide for some direction.

One thing I will say is that this government does not believe it can do all this by itself. We cannot do it alone. We must have the co-operation of the other levels of government, which should also be prepared to provide restraints in their spending, restraints on their incomes and restraints on their prices so

that we do not have extravagant settlements which will price us out of international markets. We need the same kind of discipline, restraint and commitment to be shown by trade union leaders and business executives at bargaining tables and when it comes to decisions on pricing goods. There really must be a coalition to deal with the economic crisis. We must develop a basic sense of unity among Canadians.

I say in closing that the difficulties we have at this point in the history of our country can only be frustrated by the divisiveness and misinformation we hear from certain hon. members opposite who seem to have objectives in mind other than the objective of trying to come to grips with the economic problems faced by Canada. No one will deny them their partisan advantages and their reasons for trying to get a few more points here and there on some pool or other. But surely the time has come for all Canadians to pull together in this effort and not listen to siren calls. We must come to grips with the fact that if we are going to deal with the economic situation in Canada, we must deal with it together, working in a co-operative fashion and putting forward, each of us, our best talents and resources in the most effective way possible.

That is the kind of partnership we need in this country. We need a partnership toward progress and a partnership toward recovery. We must ignore the calls of depression and frustration we hear from hon. members opposite. It is time we heard calls for unity, purpose and progress. That is the one thing this government is prepared to provide to Canadians.

Hon. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, I just want to deal for a moment with the last speaker, who illustrates why this country is in the difficulties it is in and why the people of this country no longer have any confidence in this government. The minister who just sat down has told us all the things the government is doing for job creation. Why, then, do we have 1.2 million unemployed, if there is such a wonderful program? Why would the Minister of Finance (Mr. MacEachen) not even put in his budget a forecast for unemployment if the government is so confident that it is going to create as many jobs as it says? For the first time in our history the Minister of Finance does not include in his budget a forecast of unemployment for the rest of this year or for next year, but we have this minion of his getting up in the House and telling us about the great job programs he has.

He has nothing. He tells us he is putting \$2.3 billion on the table. Where did he get the \$2.3 billion? He got it from the old age pensioners by stopping indexing of pensions for the old age pensioners. He stopped the indexing for those on family allowances. He stopped the indexing for the personal income taxpayers of this country, so that they are only going to be indexed next year to 6 per cent and then 5 per cent. That is where he got the money he says he is laying on the table, and then he juggles words in his budget and reannounces, two or three times, things already announced before.

What summarizes the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Axworthy) is this: he said in this House when he