

Adjournment Debate

Bank Act. The Bill would amend six sections of the Railway Act which govern language use on signs at level crossings and which restrict the mandatory use of English and French in notices, timetables, bills of lading and so on, to the Province of Quebec.

Could I have some order, please, Mr. Speaker?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please!

Mr. Malépart: The francophones will remember that. You will not stay there for 16 more years.

Mr. Valcourt: If that happens, it will not be thanks to you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please! On both sides of the House, please. Thank you.

[*English*]

The hour provided for the consideration of Private Members' Business has now expired.

• (1800)

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[*English*]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 66 deemed to have been moved.

EMPLOYMENT—REDUCTION IN TRADES TRAINING IN NOVA SCOTIA. (B) REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, on April 8, 1986, I asked a question of the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Nielsen) with regard to trades training in the Province of Nova Scotia. I regret to report that the answer which was given to me at that time was not a very thorough one. In fact, in my view, it was a complete denial of the facts which I presented to the Minister at that time.

Trades training is an important subject in the Province of Nova Scotia. Consequently, I would have thought that the Deputy Prime Minister, as well as other Ministers of the Crown, would have taken the representations I made much more seriously than they did. In fact, in the Province of Nova Scotia, we have had to sustain a 38 per cent reduction in moneys from the Government of Canada for trades training. This reduction comes at a time when unemployment in my province is well above the national average. I would have hoped that the Government would have been more forthcoming in its response.

Some Hon. Members may wish to doubt or call into question my statement and my facts with regard to the 38 per cent reduction of trades training in the province. A letter dated March 14, 1986, signed by the Deputy Minister, Mr. B. J.

Nicholson, of the Department of Human Resources, Development and Training, went out to various institutions in the province which were teaching courses. The letter states in part:

A substantial reduction in Federal funding is unfortunately resulting in a reduction of a number of training programs and related staff positions. The training program in which you are employed is part of this Federal Government reduction and therefore the program which you have been teaching will not be able to be offered in the coming year, and your position will no longer be funded.

A 38 per cent reduction in a small province such as Nova Scotia is overwhelming. We do not need less money for trades training, we need more.

To add insult to injury we in Nova Scotia—a have-not province—are being discriminated against by the Government. Hon. Members may ask why. I will tell them why. Arrangements have been made with the Province of Ontario which are entirely different. This is not an across-the-board reduction to various provinces. Ontario received a special deal while Nova Scotia did not.

I have in my hand a letter of intent between the Government of Canada and the Minister of Skills Development for Ontario. To substantiate my allegation of discrimination I will read paragraph 7 of the letter which states:

In addition, Canada will ensure that the sum total in fiscal year 1986/87 of both direct and indirect purchases of institutional training, including the associated administrative costs, and a targeted allocation of \$9 million for training purchases by CITCs, will be no less than \$166.3 million, representing 100 per cent of the institutional training allocation in Ontario for fiscal year 1985/86.

As Hon. Members can see, there is no reduction for the Province of Ontario while there is one for the Province of Nova Scotia. The issue is not a partisan one. The Tory Minister responsible in Nova Scotia, the Hon. T. Donahoe, said in the Legislature that he expects a \$2 million cut in funding for Nova Scotia this year, to be followed next year by a further 15 per cent cut and yet another 20 per cent cut in 1988.

• (1805)

This will have drastic effects upon the economy of Nova Scotia, particularly upon the human resources of that province. As I said in the beginning of my remarks, Nova Scotia needs additional income from the Government of Canada in order to provide the necessary training and basic skills to Canadians living in that province so that they may take advantage of job opportunities which may be presented to them at some point in time.

Therefore, the logic of reducing this funding to my province is both discriminatory and unfair; it certainly does not meet with the favour of my provincial colleagues on the Government side and on the opposition side in Nova Scotia.

A parish priest from Holy Family Parish in Eskasoni, Nova Scotia, wrote to his local MLA seeking the reinstatement of the trades training programs. Also, a Conservative MLA who was written to made a statement to the effect that he would wish to have additional funding. There are individuals who are ready and willing to take advantage of the trades training programs.