

training adults were created there. Life skills programs improved not just the level of technical training but also the way people cope with the things happening in everyday life. There were many other programs—right down to the basic literacy level—which were introduced to Saskatchewan New Starts and which were quite acceptable to Canadians who required the services which New Starts could provide.

● (1600)

They were given a five-year mandate to develop these programs of unique ways of training adults, and there was an extension given to the program in the early seventies; but upon completion of the program most of the work done was put on microfilm or microfish and shipped back to Ottawa, and now the people across this country do not know what happened to the program developed by Saskatchewan New Starts and the other New Starts such as those in Alberta and in the maritimes, to which people were receptive and warmed to and which provided much benefit. Now these programs have been shelved to a large extent. They are not moved out to where they can do the most good. I thought that those programs were a good link in the chain of problem solving and doing some kind of planning where there was a problem—and obviously the government here identified it as unemployment—and then some training was carried out. However, then they should be moved to a work force which has an industrial strategy and long-term economic planning that can ensure some kind of security in this country.

There is another program I can think of and on which I would like to compliment the government for its input. Incidentally, the New Starts program was funded federally and administered through the provincial government, which I think is a very good approach. The Saskatchewan training opportunity program was funded federally and administered by the provincial government.

Some of the programs took the approach of training people to take over industries within their areas where there was some interest. I think of the Saskatchewan training opportunity program at the Loon Lake reserve within the area I represent. The operation was a tourist operation. It had been leased out to a private operator for many years at a very low rate, and the band was not receiving much of a return from that operation. The training program was funded by the federal government and, again, I commend the government for that. The program was to train the people of that area to operate their own resort and to train them in areas of basic education, life skills, management skills and the technical skills which are required to run an economically viable operation.

What happened? It turned out that that program was actually a band-aid measure. At the end of the period of time during which the government had offered funding, it cut it off completely without any evaluation whether that program had succeeded or not. I say that Bill C-19 does much the same thing. There will be very little evaluation and very little done to overcome the permanent problem which has come upon us, that of unemployment.

### *Employment Tax Credit Act*

I think what Bill C-19 does is continue to give subsidies to large companies. If they are manufacturing a product which people in Canada today are not in a position to buy, when the program is over people are laid off and the company is in bad shape because of large inventories they cannot move on the market because economic times are so bad. Small businesses cannot really take advantage of the program either because small businesses are not in an economic position to take on new staff, and the very few which are do so to clean up things which would not normally stimulate long-term jobs within their companies. Small businesses take short-term measures to clean up their own in-house operations.

When I was in business just prior to being elected a member of Parliament, I could not take advantage of the employment tax credit program. It was of no benefit to my company. My company did not qualify under the program, and I did not have extra capital to use this program to full advantage, as do large corporations.

I see the program is not benefiting other areas of the country. The hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Kristiansen), when speaking about this bill the other day, said that many people are being laid off right now who will not benefit from the employment tax credit program. He referred largely to the lumber industry in British Columbia and in his own riding. In Saskatchewan alone this month three mills have closed down, and one plywood plant has closed down because of the bad economic times we are facing.

I submit that employment is not really the big problem in this country today. The big problem is that we do not have any long-term economic or industrial strategy to keep this country moving and our people in the standard of living to which they have grown accustomed. We let them down with band-aid measures such as the one we are being asked here today to extend. I think we should sit down and evaluate what has happened. We should take a look at this country and, looking back as far as we want to, we will find that those permanent problems are here and will plague us for a long time into the future.

My riding has a largely agricultural background. The agriculture industry has likely been the number one industry for quite a number of years now, although it is over-shadowed now by some resource development such as heavy oil development, some potash development to the south, mineral development in the north, mining development in the north and a timber industry which was thriving until we hit these bad economic times. Now lumber companies cannot afford to carry their inventories and they are laying off large staffs. I submit that the people in The Battlefords-Meadow Lake constituency will not benefit at all if Bill C-19 is passed. There is nothing in it that I can think of that would benefit them.

I would like to hear from the minister what industries or small businesses would be employing people in Canada who are being laid off now. What short-term jobs can they go into? People are being laid off in the wood industry, the lumber industry and the auto industry across this country. Those people have a hard time finding jobs. They are some of the