

guaranteed before we can even get serious about hiring full-time employees?

**Mr. Axworthy:** Mr. Chairman, it is not a specific policy. We do recognize that there has to be a minimum amount of remuneration for people who go into the work force, but because of the nature of the farming community where other services are provided, such as room and board, there is no minimum wage. As the hon. member has said, the minimum wage guideline is a decision which is made by the provinces. I will undertake to discuss that topic with the provincial ministers when I have the opportunity.

**Mr. Hargrave:** Mr. Chairman, I have just one other observation. I do not believe that it will lead to a question. I want to give the minister a specific example. I once put an order in to the local manpower office for help. I specified that I wanted an applicant who was reasonably competent in the saddle. I did not expect a bronco-rider, a professional rider or anybody like that. It turned out that the manpower office received one application from an individual who described himself as a horse trainer. The minimum salary expected for him was \$600 a month plus room and board! That particular individual may have been a horse trainer, but he did not fill the bill at all. I think he had some experience in training horses. To me that is a good example of a minimum wage which was used in an entirely wrong situation.

I make these remarks for the benefit of the minister and his staff just to let them know that, while I am sure he does not hear very often from those of us who are in the market for a full-time, year-round employee, we sometimes feel a little less than adequately served. Perhaps it is because of the nature of the jobs which we offer, but when we get employees who are willing to stay, they are very well paid. We often feel that there just is not enough of them when we need them.

**Mr. de Jong:** Mr. Chairman, although I know that the minister has had several questions from other hon. members on the subject of studies which might be undertaken to show the effectiveness of this particular program, I would like to ask a couple myself.

I notice that on April 24 the parliamentary secretary to the minister, in an address to the House, referred to a study which was based on some 5,000 people who were employed under the program and showed how many of those people had been unemployed, for what periods of time and so on. Could the minister tell us if there have been any programs which would show how long the jobs created under this program have lasted and how long those people who have been employed under the program remained employed?

**Mr. Axworthy:** Mr. Chairman, by our best estimates, the average number of weeks that are used under this program is 46. As the hon. member knows, the program must be a minimum of three months' duration and are an average of 12 months, it is about a 46 week average over all.

If I understand the hon. member's second question, what we can gather from the interim report—and I want to make it

### *Employment Tax Credit Act*

clear that it is simply an interim evaluation which will not be completed until the end of this summer—about 50 per cent of those who join the program stay on the job after the program comes to an end.

**Mr. de Jong:** Mr. Chairman, I wonder as well if in the study which was referred to there was any breakdown in terms of male/female employment and in terms of native employment?

**Mr. Axworthy:** Mr. Chairman, in that interim study there was a breakdown between male and female employees. We estimated that about 40 per cent of the participants in the program were female. The range was between 35 per cent and 40 per cent. The reason for that figure is that most of the work is concentrated in the manufacturing sector or the goods-producing sector. As the hon. member well knows, that is a sector which has not been available to women up to this point in time.

We hope to be able to break down those barriers through some of the programs we introduced last week, but it will be a long-term program and, as a result, the figures do not reflect the over-all percentage of women in the work force.

**Mr. de Jong:** Were there any figures in terms of native employment?

**Mr. Axworthy:** Mr. Chairman, because of the nature of this program there was no specific breakdown for native people because the requirement of the employment tax credit program is that, again, we use private sector employers. There are not a large number of such employers within the band council or reserve areas that were being used. If there is some way of getting such figures, I will attempt to get them for the hon. member.

**Mr. de Jong:** I would like to question the minister a bit more about native employment. As the minister may be aware, I represent the constituency of Regina East. That constituency has a large number of native people among which there is an extremely high rate of unemployment. The Saskatchewan Federation of Indians conducted a study in 1978 which suggested that up to 700 to 800 Indian people from the reserves are moving into Regina every year, which is only adding to the unemployment there.

Would the minister have available for me any figures relating to native unemployment in Regina, particularly with regard to treaty and status Indian people?

**Mr. Axworthy:** Mr. Chairman, I met with the officials of the Saskatchewan government about two weeks ago to discuss their proposals for an urban and native program. I am recalling offhand, but I think they estimated that unemployment rates were in the area of 40 per cent to 50 per cent, which is about the same unemployment rate that is occasioned on the reserves or in the non-status Indian community. That is one of the reasons we have introduced special programs which relate to the problems of native people and are presently negotiating with a number of native organizations in western Canada to determine if they can get those programs started this summer.