

*Unemployment Insurance Act*

I was in Washington some 10 days ago at a meeting of the American Iron and Steel Institute, where I learned that the American steel industry, on its own, is putting \$200 million on the line to upgrade the present employees of the steel industry. Rather than providing people from the industry with skills to work somewhere else because it is downsizing, it is recognizing that the very useful and productive machinery it will be installing in the plants will require employees who can operate those machines. The industry is investing \$200 million of its own money, just as a down payment. If we are going to be competitive we will have to do something similar to that.

The Hon. Member for Eglinton—Lawrence (Mr. Volpe) stated in his comments that businesses provide some two to three hours training per week.

**Mr. Volpe:** Two to three weeks.

**Mr. Kempling:** A recent Statistics Canada study shows that Canadian businesses provide an average of only two hours of training per year. Is he suggesting that current levels of training by Canadian businesses are sufficient and that there is no room for improvement? That is nonsense. There is much room for improvement. If we are going to remain competitive in the global market, we will need a large supply of skilled workers.

Thirty per cent of our Gross National Product depends on our ability to export. We can only export if we are productive and competitive in the market-place. Part of the training culture means never giving up on the unemployed worker who needs timely assistance that will propel him or her back into the workforce. Bill C-21 provides an important shift in that direction. It is a Bill that dares to face up to the future and I am pleased with it.

I believe it is a timely Bill that will give us what we need. When one looks at the job lists at Canada Employment and Immigration offices throughout the country to see the job shortages in the market-place, one can see that there are not the people to fill them. I am sure all Hon. Members have people come to their offices asking if they can bring in skilled workers like tool and die makers from other countries because Canada is not training enough tool and die makers here.

Let me illustrate by referring to one job list for example. It lists such jobs as geological technician, prospector, landscape architect, marine surveyor and a job for claims staking.

Incidentally, these are jobs in Newfoundland. There are jobs for a systems software programmer, application programmer, mini-micro computer specialist, human services worker, mental retardation worker, day care worker, dispensing optician, dental technician, net assembler, logger, drilling machine operator, diamond driller, scoop tram operator, mining helper and the list goes on.

These jobs which are going begging in Newfoundland include ones for a dragging and flotation operator, leaching operator, first-line supervisor, quality control inspection, a machinist, sheet metal worker, welder-fitter, stone cutter, optician and the list goes on. There are two and a half pages of jobs just for Newfoundland alone. Every province has a list of jobs like that which are going begging because the labour force does not have the skills to fill those jobs. Our duty is to help fill those jobs. That is what Bill C-21 is all about.

**Mr. Langdon:** Mr. Speaker, I have three comments I want to make to my hon. friend, the Member for Burlington (Mr. Kempling). First, let me suggest to him that it is not a question of whether Members on this side of the House or Members on that side of the House have a sense of the desperate need for training in this country. Certainly that is something to which the commitment on this side of the House is at least as strong as the commitment on the other side of the House. In fact, what we see in our constituencies is significant cut-backs by the Government in the kind of funding for training which has been possible for people who are out of work. I do not think training is the issue.

In considering the comments by the Member for Burlington, there is one clear point that I want him to pin down more carefully.

• (1640)

He talked about the importance of what he called an underground economy. Certainly my experience with what, as the Member said, all of us recognize as an existing underground economy, is that the people who are part of that underground economy are more often