

*Oral Questions*

premise in the basis of the Hon. Member's question. The Provinces are not closing hospitals because of a lack of transfer payments. In fact transfer payments were increased on the basis of 12 per cent per year, which is a substantially higher contribution than most provincial Governments were making to those very same programs. I think it is important to get those facts on the table. In this area we are going through a very honest and open process of discussion with provincial Governments and others so that we can combine our efforts and our resources to determine how, where their own efforts are devoted and targeted at those particular groups, we can provide a match-up. But we do not go on the basis of saying that there must be requirements; we go on the basis of looking for the best accommodation.

## EFFECT ON YOUNG UNEMPLOYED WORKERS

**Miss Pat Carney (Vancouver Centre):** Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of Finance. Last night he said that he could spare funds to employ only 60,000 of the 1.3 million Canadians who are currently unemployed. One of the problems of these programs is that they are not often effective. For instance, in Port Alberni, British Columbia, where there were 4,500 people out of work this summer, there are only 24 employed at planting trees because people who have exhausted their unemployment benefits are not eligible for the Program. What assurances can the Minister give us that these 60,000 jobs will be targeted to those Canadians who need them the most—young Canadians who account for nearly half the unemployed and Canadians who have lost their unemployment insurance benefits? I hope this Minister of Finance can speak to his own budget, unlike his predecessor.

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Madam Speaker, again I will answer the Hon. Member who wants specific responses concerning this Program. We have made it very clear that this particular job-creation program is targeted at those people in the community who have run out of unemployment insurance benefits. We are providing them with an option to work for an income in order to re-establish their stability and basis.

● (1430)

I should point out that that is not the only job-creation program. We have a number of programs presently in place. For example, the Canada Community Development Project is providing an addition to the 60,000 jobs through the NEED Program and another additional 60,000 jobs to the community development projects as well as a number of programs targeted specifically at young people and others in need. In fact, the budget at this present time for direct employment programs is well over \$600 million and we are adding another \$500 million to it for this particular group. Therefore, this government is committing well over \$1 billion at this point in time for direct employment programs to cover a wide variety of people who now have employment problems.

## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

## SITUATION OF "EXHAUSTEES"

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap):** Madam Speaker, a new sociological phenomenon is happening in Canada these days and, as a result, a new vocabulary is emerging. The term "exhaustees" is becoming very critical now in discussions and debates in this House. The Department of Employment and Immigration tells us that in the months remaining this year every month 55,000 Canadians will come off UIC benefits. That figure will increase over the whole of 1983. The Minister's mini-budget statement yesterday suggested that 1,200 people a month between now and the end of the year will be serviced in terms of new jobs. What do we do about the short fall of 53,800 Canadians who will find their UIC benefits exhausted.

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Madam Speaker, if the hon. member would read the study thoroughly he would find that, when it comes to people exhausting their benefits, a large percentage of those are able to gain alternative employment within the first six or seven weeks. That is well over 35 per cent of the total.

Another large group in that range of people have other forms of income support.

**An Hon. Member:** Yes, welfare.

**Mr. Axworthy:** This program is targeted for those who have the greatest need, those who face no other choice but to go on welfare. The program was designed to meet the needs of that group of people which the survey points out represents only 10 per cent of the total number of people who would be exhausting their benefits. It is because of the need to give them the maximum amount of assistance that we have targeted the program particularly for that group.

**Mr. Riis:** Madam Speaker, that is why I termed it indirectly as a sociological phenomenon which obviously the Minister of Employment and Immigration does not understand. His department has provided statistics that show that a significant number of those people losing their jobs, going onto UIC and now coming off UIC, are the bread winners in those families. They are not sons or daughters or spouses; they are the sole bread winners of their families. That is the phenomenon of the last number of months. However, I would like to try my question again but this time I will address it to the Minister of Finance.

## GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap):** Madam Speaker, the Program of the Minister of Finance indicated that 60,000 jobs would be created in the next 18 months. Using the figures of the Minister of Employment and Immigration we find that 1,155,000 Canadians will be exhaustees. Will the Minister of Finance please have the courage to rise and tell us what do we do with this shortfall of over 1,000,000 exhaustees in the next