

The Canadian Economy

number of years will be augmented. Immediate discussions will begin with the provinces—

An hon. Member: The woodshedding course.

Mr. Dinsdale: This is the penitent's plea.

Mr. Lang: —for training which will be initiated here both of the basic and skill development type.

Mr. Horner: Did the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) take you out to the woodshed?

Mr. Dinsdale: Not yet, but he will after this speech.

Mr. Lang: These programs have been specifically designed in a way to involve the wishes of the people involved in them, and have always drawn a distinction between those who have recently emerged into the labour force—

Mr. Woolliams: I will say so.

Mr. Lang: —and those who are basically in a regular education program, and this for what may have been fairly valid reasons.

The new feature in the program is the on the job training.

Mr. Woolliams: What are they going to work at when you have them trained?

Mr. Nielsen: What is new about that?

Mr. Lang: The on the job training program will involve an availability of approximately \$20 million through the form largely of tax incentives, through the form of a 150 percent write-off for the wages of approved trainees and, in some small measure, through certain programs for institutions which cannot benefit under the tax incentive program. This program will be available not only to those who have been in the labour force for the three year period, which is the condition for the other program, but will be available also for those who cannot meet that criteria. The Canadian Manpower centres will be fully involved in attempting to assess the potential of individuals referred to on the job training and to assure that the training offered is of a type which is, so far as possible, transferrable to other employment. In this program there will not only be the fullest consultation with the provinces but also with labour unions and industrial management. Indeed, unions will be fully involved in consultations with regard to specific application of the program so that they may be satisfied that it is working.

Mr. Woolliams: When are you calling an election?

Mr. Lang: Certain conditions will be applied to assure that the trainees who are put in jobs do not take places which would go to ordinary employees. For instance, where employees are laid off, the training program will not be available but in all cases the fullest consultation with union organizations will take place.

These expenditures, Mr. Speaker, both of the capital sort and the labour intensive sort which may be mounted early and put more people to work per dollar spent, and the training programs, indicate our concern for the move-

[Mr. Lang.]

ment into employment of the maximum number of Canadians as soon as possible.

The other programs, the taxation programs announced by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson) indicate our concern about the basic availability in the economy of inducements to expand in the private sector, and the basic strength of the Canadian economy for this kind of growth to take place. There have been some concerns, particularly because of international development, and here the stimulus of tax incentives should offset to a significant degree the problems this has created. A good deal more will be heard in the next few days about the details of these various programs—

Mr. Woolliams: We have heard a lot now, but nothing happens.

Mr. Lang: —and the initiative to put to work those additional members of the labour force who are seeking work, as a result of the changed participation rate, as a result of the tremendous rate of growth in the work force in this country. It should never be forgotten that the challenge which faces us is great.

Mr. Woolliams: It won't be.

Mr. Lang: Considered on a year to year basis at a 2.4 per cent rate, there is an increase in the working age population in the work force of approximately 5 times the increase shown in many of the industrial countries in Europe, and very significantly greater rates than that in the United States.

Mr. Woolliams: How do you account for that?

Mr. Lang: These are the challenges which face us, Mr. Speaker, and the programs put before the House tonight go a long way toward helping the immediate situation and, through those programs and their indirect effects which are of longer range duration, of sustaining even greater growth in the economy in the months ahead.

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, I believe it is time that Canadians are entitled to some honesty from the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and his government. One can understand now why the Prime Minister takes so little part in these debates, takes part in the odd debate on the Speech from the Throne, takes part in the odd debate on Nigeria and takes part in more than the odd debate on television. One can understand why he does not participate in debates in this House now, judging from the weakness of the contribution we have heard for from the minister responsible for the Wheat Board (Mr. Lang) and the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson).

• (9:50 p.m.)

An hon. Member: He doesn't care.

Mr. Nielsen: We need honesty from ministers like the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Chrétien) who comes to this House and says there is no unemployment in the north, when he knows very well there is; from the Minister of Labour (Mr. Mackasey) who, in response to question after question from this side of the House tells us that the Unemployment Insurance Commission is operating at 98 per cent efficiency, when there is