

Private Members' Business

I am quite confident that we are going to do a good job down the road and this program will help employ any person in Canada who really wants a job.

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Madam Speaker, may I start my comments by congratulating the member for describing, so eloquently, the words written in that valiant newspaper *The Toronto Star*. Some of us appreciate and have appreciated that paper for a long time and I am glad to see this new-found appreciation on the part of Conservative members for the *The Toronto Star*. It is nice to see that conversion on the part of government members. I will remind other Conservatives when they criticize *The Toronto Star* that it has been extensively quoted by one of their own colleagues today in the House of Commons.

Getting back to the serious issue before us, I have read this motion and I have listened to the speech of the hon. member presenting it and although I am sure it is well-intentioned, I do have some problems with it. I will describe them to you in the following way.

I have had experience in my constituency of some programs, particularly those of job entry and job re-entry.

Both of those programs are very successful in the riding that I represent. What they have done is taken women who had not been in the work force for many years, some of them had actually never participated in the traditional work force—not to demean, of course, their contribution at home—but in the paid work force, if we can call it that, they had not contributed for many years or perhaps not at all. Through this program they were able to integrate into the work force.

• (1430)

That is not always easy for a person who has small children at home, or even where the children are grown, and they live outside a village or town and need transportation into town to go through the training. In some cases, as a component of job re-entry, day care is provided for the children. That has been very effective and it has worked well in my constituency. The Prescott-Russell Separate School Board and the Board of Education have done a tremendous job in making that work. They are the people who have provided the training.

How in blazes am I supposed to expect those people to hire them? They provide the training, but they do not keep those people, Madam Speaker. They are not supposed to; they are a school. This is part of the alternative education program. That is just about the only training that goes on in my riding.

If we were to force the Prescott-Russell Board of Education to hire everyone it trains, we would have more teachers than students at the end of the program. That could not possibly work, at least in the area I represent.

I would imagine that the motion, knowing where the member comes from, is designed to target large industries particularly that perhaps have a tendency to go to small industries and rob them of their best employees with a few extra dollars rather than train their own. Then the small businesses have to train employees only to see them stolen later by the larger employers.

I think the parliamentary secretary, a former businessman himself, was describing that kind of situation as having perhaps happened to himself in the past.

If we are to consider what our colleague from Essex—Windsor proposes in the motion, the motion is going to have to be reworded extensively in order not to have penalties imposed upon people whose job it is—and who do it very successfully—to train others for re-employment using federal government programs.

In my constituency, I wish we had more participation in training by employers. We have had some but, to a large measure, the training has been done, as I said previously, by the alternative education program of both our Separate School Board and Board of Education.

I would not want us to adopt a motion that would suggest outright that employers who benefit—and the employer here is the Board of Education; it benefits by giving the jobs to their teachers to train those people—should be saddled with the burden of those people. The net result would obviously be that it would cease to train these people, largely women, who have received this very valuable training over the last three or four years. This is one sector of the Canadian Jobs Strategy that I must compliment the government on.

That might surprise you, Madam Speaker, complimenting the government is not something I do very often in this House. And I can tell, notwithstanding your impartial usual objectivity, that there is a tendency on