

Government Orders

that offered in the United States, and 80 per cent of Canada's unemployed workers receive benefits as compared to 35 per cent in the United States. We spend three and a half times more on UI per capita than the United States. Government spending on training in Canada is twice that of the United States.

We now need to lever Canadian employers to increase training expenditures by dramatic proportions to at least match U.S. private sector levels.

The Canada Labour Force Development Board and regional and local boards are beginning, in partnership, to strongly encourage private sector training. In 1993-94 the government will spend \$3.8 billion on labour market programs. That is 80 per cent more than we were spending in 1989-90. Training and adjustment, supported by the UI program in 1993, will account for \$2.21 billion, four and half times the 1990 level.

We have a way to go. Canada is still spending more per capita on passive labour market measures than any other G-7 country. We rank 15th among all OECD countries.

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Through our national sectoral human resources planning initiative we are furthering partnerships of workers, employers and other stakeholders to develop comprehensive development strategies. Over two million workers in Canada are benefiting from more than 900 planning agreements.

We are also implementing a new initiative aimed at providing training opportunities for workers with a demonstrated longer term attachment to the labour force. That is a first in Canada. No government has ever targeted these displaced workers to give them the kind of tailored programming assistance they need to reintegrate into the labour market. Of course no one on the other side wants to talk about these initiatives for longer term attachment of people to the labour force.

We have a program to promote the swift reintegration into the work force of workers displaced by economic changes of any kind. For non-UI recipients we have the Canadian Jobs Strategy which spent \$1.6 billion to

provide a wide range of services to help Canadians enhance their employability.

[Translation]

In short, we are using new skills, innovative approaches and new dollars so workers can rebound quickly and liberate their own potential, rather than creating safety nets which trap for life so many of those who land in them lost to the numbing grip of dependency. There could be nothing we could regret more than to let the NAFTA opportunity founder and then watch Canada sink behind, cut off from the potentially explosive growth of the nations of Latin America.

I invite my hon. friends, the members opposite, to reject short term political considerations, to reject appeals to unfounded fears, to face squarely the reality and opportunity of these times.

Join with the government in taking credit for having supported a progressive trade agreement which enhances the future for all workers, all Canadians.

On March 28 *The Toronto Star* quoted the hon. Leader of the NDP as calling for members to "kick butt" in opposing NAFTA. Honourable members will know that this is not the kind of language I usually choose to use, but if that be her call and those of her fellow travellers—the Maude Barlows and Bob Whites, et al—I suggest they have chosen the wrong butt.

Targeting the FTA and now NAFTA may gain a quick sound bite and a fleeting image of commitment to the unemployed or those fearful of losing jobs, but the evidence is simply not there to support these wild allegations.

I remember that Canadians heard during the 1988 election campaign prophets of doom who used absolutely every possible means to scare people in the different regions of the country, and particularly in my province of New Brunswick and in all of Atlantic Canada, among other things telling our seniors that they would lose their social safety net, predicting the sale of schools to Americans, telling people back home that their children would be drafted by the American army. It was unbelievable. Now they are at it again, trying to scare Canadians with the North American Free Trade Agreement.