

DIRECT JOB-CREATION PROGRAM—APPLICATION IN SOUTHERN  
ONTARIO

**Mr. Otto Jelinek (Halton):** Mr. Speaker, I have a further supplementary question for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. I wonder if he understands that a solid manufacturing base is necessary if this country is to offer meaningful employment rather than just temporary employment, and that this manufacturing base is situated mostly in southern Ontario and is experiencing massive unemployment. For example, in Hamilton, Ontario, unemployment in the last year alone has increased by over 100 per cent.

Why have these sectors and these cities been ignored in the minister's new assistance programs? More important, why have they been ignored by incentive programs? Why are the programs designated by ridings rather than by cities or regions? Finally, what does the minister and the government intend to do with all the newly unemployed people in southern Ontario in cities like Hamilton and Dunnville and other areas in southern Ontario hardest hit by unemployment?

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, the premise of the hon. member's question simply is not correct. The fact of the matter is that we do very much recognize the problems affecting the manufacturing areas of the southern part of Ontario, parts of Quebec and other areas where the manufacturing industry is most active. In my own department alone we have introduced a work-sharing program under which over 3,700 agreements have been signed. This has averted close to 60,000 lay-offs, many of them in Ontario and Quebec, and kept manufacturing plants open. I think this demonstrates very clearly the measures we are taking in those areas to try to help that part of the country in this very difficult time.

However, the major commitment is being made through contracts being signed in export markets to provide further work. Major assistance is being given by the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce to the automobile industry under ILAP to provide further incentives. The automobile industry is now beginning to regain its health.

I do not have sufficient time to refer to all the measures we have taken; however, I can assure the hon. member that not only is this government responsive, but it is also undertaking a wide range of programs to help industries in the region to which the hon. member refers, during this very difficult recession.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF ATTORNEY GENERAL OF MANITOBA

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. May I call the attention of the House to the presence in the gallery of the Hon. Roland Penner, the Attorney General of the province of Manitoba.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

80118-30

Oral Questions

MINES AND MINING

SERVICE OF EVICTION NOTICES ON HOME RENTERS IN ELSA,  
Y.T.

**Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert):** Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that the hon. member for Yukon is not here this afternoon to bring the concern to which I will refer in my question to the attention of the House. However, in his absence I would like to ask a question of the Minister of State for Mines.

Many of the residents of the town of Elsa, Yukon, have lived in company houses for more than 35 years, but they will be evicted from their homes on August 31 because of the temporary closure of the United Keno Hill mines. Also 200 employees and their families could be affected. Could the minister inform the House what steps her department is taking to avoid another Uranium City-like evacuation of Elsa, since most of the employees have indicated that they wish to remain in their home community? Specifically, is the minister's task force on one-industry towns prepared to visit Elsa—

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. I invite the hon. member to go to his point.

**Mr. Hovdebo:** Is the minister's task force on one-industry towns prepared to visit the townsite and make recommendations so that temporary mine closure does not mean the expulsion of these people from Elsa?

**Hon. Judy Erola (Minister of State (Mines)):** Mr. Speaker, I am happy to have this opportunity to respond to the hon. member's question because this is a problem that is very typical of one-industry towns across the north.

The task force has completed its visits, unfortunately, and is now preparing its report, so it will no longer be making visits to areas, but I will be happy to refer this problem to the task force. In the meantime, I suggest to the hon. member that he examine the make-work projects we have under way, and perhaps we can design one to provide the kind of job creation that is necessary in this town.

I remind the hon. member that the reason for the reduction in the work force under the stand-by system is that the price of silver has dropped to \$8, and production costs must be accounted for. A \$13.50 price is absolutely essential if production is to continue. In the meantime, I suggest that he sit down with our officials to design a program which would keep some of those people working in the community. We would be happy to assist him.

● (1440)

REQUEST THAT ACTION BE TAKEN TO PREVENT EVICTIONS

**Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert):** Mr. Speaker, I too, would call the attention of the minister to the announcement by her seat mate that \$300 million spent for employment projects includes \$41 million for "direct job-creation funds over the fall and winter to communities which experience sudden lay-offs". Will the Minister of State for Mines take the