

Supply

possible a new robotics program and the Pacific Vocational Institute is using the fund for a high-tech training centre.

● (1230)

I cite these examples, Mr. Speaker, to illustrate, since large amounts of money can boggle the mind and leave one with a lack of understanding and perception, how the Government is effectively working to ensure we have highly trained Canadians ready to meet the high-skill needs of our future economy. By citing the different places, I have endeavoured to show that this effort is being made across the whole nation, and is trying to provide meaningful opportunities for people to take on jobs in all parts of Canada.

I might add at this point that the operation of the Skills Growth Fund is an excellent example of how this Government co-operates with the provinces as well as with businesses, as we have indicated, in the private sector, and various other organizations, both charitable and community minded, in pursuit of a national goal. It is a comprehensive program involving all phases of community life, public, private and charitable.

A key element in preparing young people to enter the labour market is being able to predict which skills and professions will be in greatest demand in the next few years so that the education and training provided corresponds to the real needs of our economy. To do this effectively, we need to know what the needs will be and where. With this in mind, and in very close collaboration with other governments, labour and business, we have developed the Canadian Occupational Projection System, or COPS. The system has been designed to collect, process and disseminate information on the future supply of, and demand for, workers on a professional basis.

The goal, then, is to plan Canada's human resources better, and especially its young human resources. It is to plan, where there are people with little or no skills, for retraining, or for those who wish to have and need skills in those industries requiring people with special skills, and, of course, the professions. It is a totally comprehensive approach to the entire subject of human resources and employment. It is not a patchwork type of thing, here, there or the other place. It is a total approach to a total problem which has huge and important dimensions to it in the future.

I could go on about the efforts of the Government to train our young people for the world of work, but I am glad that I have had this opportunity to talk about one aspect of it to show that dismissing the work of the Government in a few simple words is most unfair, most ineffective and inaccurate.

I could go on about the efforts of the Government. Just two weeks ago, for example, we announced the establishment of a new youth training option. With \$30 million of Youth Opportunity Fund money, this option will offer young people a new form of training lasting up to a year. It is being designed to provide participants with both theoretical training and structured on-the-job training and experience. When it becomes operational around Labour Day, it will truly provide young people with yet one more option for learning. I know that all Members here share this Government's concern for our young

people. Obviously this subject would not have been called on this Opposition Day if it were not a shared concern. I think it is important, therefore, for the whole picture to be given.

Our youth are standing on the threshold of greatness in the Canada of the future. We all have a stake in what happens to our young people. With the programs this Government has put in place and is putting in place, we are ensuring they acquire the knowledge, the skills and the experience that will equip them for the way ahead.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): Are there any questions or comments relating to the remarks of the Hon. Member for Eglinton-Lawrence?

Mr. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member for Eglinton-Lawrence (Mr. de Corneille) mentioned that the starts under the national training program doubled in two years. I believe the national training program came into force in 1982. If you start from nothing, doubling does not mean anything. If you have one and double it, you only need one more. But if you have 1,000 and double it, it would be 2,000. Could the Hon. Member give me the figures he has which show the doubling?

Mr. de Corneille: Mr. Speaker, I do not have the release here from which I cited my figures, but I think to observe that when you start from nothing and you double it you have nothing is a cavalier approach to what I thought was a rather comprehensive description of a very serious and comprehensive program. It is a program which has a great deal of taxpayers' money invested in it and a great deal of thought has been given to it by Canada's civil servants as well as this Government to make it an effective training program for our people. To minimize its scope, to disregard it or to be a cavalier about it is really not the point here. I hope that is not what is intended.

Mr. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, who is minimizing it? I am simply asking for the facts.

Mr. Beatty: He says he does not know.

Mr. Taylor: I am asking what is the figure. Is the conscience of the Hon. Member bothering him? I simply asked for the figure. What was the figure that was doubled? How many starts are being made this year? How many were made in 1982 and 1983? That is all I want to know. I am not minimizing the program, Mr. Speaker, I just want to know the facts. Is there no answer from the Hon. Member?

Mr. Fretz: Mr. Speaker, it is amazing that we did not get an answer to the question posed by the Hon. Member for Bow River (Mr. Taylor). However, we know it is not necessary to answer if the Hon. Member for Eglinton-Lawrence feels he does not want to answer.

During his speech he said that there can be no quick fix. I do not think we are having even a slow fix to the problems we are experiencing in this country today. What we are having is an attempt at patching up. What we need are new initiatives as espoused by our spokesperson this morning, the Hon. Member for Elgin (Mr. Wise). Our Party does espouse job