

*Investment Canada Act*

that we created as many jobs in 1980 as this Government is creating now. Between 1975 and 1979, in two of those years, we created 350,000 jobs, which is 100,000 more jobs than this Government will be creating this year. It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that suggests that our economic policies were working pretty effectively. We had a very strong and major commitment.

During the period of recession, I would remind the Hon. Member because he was an Hon. Member of this House, we made a very clear, conscious decision that rather than exacerbating the problems of the worldwide recession we were all facing, we would maintain major investments in job-creation programs. We had the special capital recovery program with major investments into the municipalities. We had major job-training programs on which \$1.4 billion was to be spent this year, which is about \$500 million more than the Hon. Member's Government is spending on job training and development skills. Those were our kinds of interest.

As far as our philosophy is concerned, we believe that this country is a mixed enterprise. It needs investment by both private and public capital. It needs a partnership between the public and private sectors. It does not have some kind of fixed ideological blind side which says that only private entrepreneurship will work. We believe that the two, in combination, will work and we feel that that is the best prescription we can offer to the Government at this time.

**Mr. Kilgour:** Mr. Speaker, the problem with all that the Hon. Member has just said is that—if my memory is sound—Canada had the highest rate of unemployment amongst the OECD countries for 1984. In other words, what the Hon. member's Government was doing was not working. It was working less well for the economy than any of the OECD countries from the standpoint of creating jobs. Does that not perhaps suggest to the Hon. Member that we have to try some new things such as encouraging the private sector?

**Mr. Axworthy:** Mr. Speaker, first, I would take issue with the Hon. Member. We did not have the highest unemployment figure. We only have to look at his Conservative compatriots in Great Britain to find a much higher unemployment rate than this country has faced. What Great Britain does not have is the kind of very severe regional disparities we do. There is a very thin economic base in parts of the Atlantic Provinces, in parts of northern Quebec and northern Ontario, and in parts of the area which the Hon. Member and I share as Hon. Members from western Canada. We have a large native population where there is no economic base. That is where the kind of public support about which we are talking is needed.

I have no argument with the need for new policies. I think that any Government at any time has to be always searching for better and alternative ways. One of the last acts I undertook as a Minister was in a major area of deregulation in the transportation industry, which I feel was a useful thing to do. I wish the present Minister would follow through on it. He has been holding back. That is an area where we could relieve a lot

of government regulation and allow the private sector management to make their own decisions.

I agree that there are all kinds of areas where new innovation can be undertaken, but I am suggesting that if the Government's intention in this Bill, Investment Canada, is to encourage Canadian investment, it is going about it the wrong way. There is not much encouragement of Canadian investment. In fact, the argument we have made all along is that it is a total dependency upon foreign investment to help the Canadian economy. If the Minister had brought in a real Investment Canada Bill, we might have been prepared to support it.

● (1130)

**Mrs. Maily:** Mr. Speaker, I have a comment on what the Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Fort Garry (Mr. Axworthy) said about his Government putting more money in the Budget for training than we did. We were told by officials of Employment and Immigration when we looked into past programs, particularly the program for students, that the Liberal programs were very costly to administrate. That was why so much more money had to be put into the programs. The young people got less out of that program than they will out of the Challenge 85 program put together by the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Miss MacDonald) for this summer. That seems to have been symptomatic of a lot of the programs his Government put forward. They were very costly in overhead and encrusted with bureaucratic rules. A lot of people were doing much less than they will in some of the programs we are now developing. This is one factor he should keep in mind when he is bragging about more money being put in his programs. It was not necessarily a very efficient spending of money.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, I am wondering whether the Hon. Member realizes that Motion No. 24 was adopted by inadvertence the day before yesterday simply because there had not been sufficient advance notice that the question was going to be put. Contrary to what he claimed a moment ago, the amendment did not change anything since we had already taken that situation into account and solved the problem that existed in 1976. The only possible outcome of his amendment motion was to re-establish FIRA's previous standards in that respect and, his claim notwithstanding, the situation remains unchanged.

[English]

**Mr. Axworthy:** Mr. Speaker, the fact is that the average cost of a summer job under our program was about \$3,000 per student, which is a very economical way of putting a lot of students back to work. It also managed to get a lot of people working very quickly, which this program is not doing. A lot of students are still waiting because of the delay in getting applications out. I do agree that using the wage subsidy is a useful approach, but I would remind her that we pioneered that approach. We brought in the NEED program in 1983. We put up \$500 million and we were able to generate \$700 million of private investment at the same time. We proved that