

Mr. Hawkes: The next program is the new technology program at \$7 million. Is all of it to be spent this year or part of it next year?

Mr. Axworthy: Again, it is committed for this year.

Mr. Hawkes: How about the program for the disadvantaged people at \$15 million?

Mr. Axworthy: As I explained in my statement to the House, that \$15 million was set aside in our budget for a new program dealing with the disadvantaged people. There are no employees as yet because we are still working on it. We hope to be able to bring in legislation, if necessary, this fall to provide that kind of incentive to the private sector to hire severely disadvantaged people. So the \$15 million at this point is just a reserve in our budget until we are able to arrive at the details of that program.

Mr. Hawkes: The next program is the native training program at \$10 million. Is it all to be spent this year or will some be spent next year?

Mr. Axworthy: This year, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Hawkes: The next one is the critical skills training program at \$10 million.

Mr. Axworthy: It will be spent this year, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Hawkes: The next one is the non-traditional training for women at \$2 million.

Mr. Axworthy: It is for this year, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Hawkes: The next one is the language training for refugees at \$7 million.

Mr. Axworthy: It is for this year, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Hawkes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Let us come back to the community services program. The minister has told us the following facts about it, that there is an \$11 million budget which will be spent this year. I believe the original announcement was that there would be 1,000 participants. If those 1,000 participants participate for the length of time available to them this year—I think it has the starting date of October 1 and the fiscal year ends on March 31—if one does a little rough calculation, it comes to 26 weeks of employment for 1,000 people at \$11 million; and the cost of that job-creation program comes to \$423 worth of taxpayers' money each week. Can the minister confirm those mathematics?

Mr. Axworthy: Mr. Chairman, I did not hear those mathematics.

Mr. Hawkes: I will be only too happy to repeat them in the hope they might stick. The minister has announced a budget of \$11 million. He has confirmed in this House today that that \$11 million is to be spent this year. The starting date of the

Employment Tax Credit Act

program is October 1. If we are talking about this fiscal year, which the minister has confirmed, then the program would terminate March 31. If those 1,000 people work in that entire 26-week period, then the cost will be \$423 per week. If any of them work a shorter period of time, the cost would go up. In the case of the community services program, we are talking about a cost to taxpayers of \$423 per week per job. Are those mathematics correct?

● (1600)

Mr. Axworthy: Again, Mr. Chairman, I should like to correct the hon. member's mathematics. I think he is a much better sociologist than a mathematician. As I explained earlier, a commitment is made this year of \$11 million. It is made to projects to pay for the estimated 1,000 participants. They will be given the funds to use, but those jobs may carry over into the next fiscal year. Therefore, that is the basis upon which he should add in several additional weeks; it will substantially lower the cost per week.

Mr. Hawkes: Mr. Chairman, this is becoming extremely difficult. In the beginning we went very slowly. We went through every program. We asked the minister whether the budget would be spent this year or spread over two years. I think the *Hansard* record will show very clearly that the minister corrected me in terms of the community services program. He indicated that the entire \$11 million for employment creation would be spent in this fiscal year for that program. Using the minister's own figures, the mathematics of the situation come to \$423. Surely it is a simple calculation.

This line of questioning began with an attempt to ascertain the number of man-weeks of employment created and the cost per week. Those figures are in the bill before us. I suggest it is completely irresponsible to propose any employment-creation program without some estimate of the cost per week per job. Surely the minister or his department has those figures. He has one of the largest research departments and perhaps the largest budget in government for this purpose. We cannot continue to have it both ways. Either the \$11 million is spent this year or not. If it is, the cost per week is \$423 minimum, and it may be more.

Mr. Axworthy: Mr. Chairman, I would not want to disabuse the hon. member of his own opinions, but I suggest that he should re-examine his calculations. We indicated to him that our form of measurement, which I think is a responsible one, was to take a sum of money and subdivide it in terms of what we think will be the potential pay-out per participant. We have indicated that we estimate there will be some 1,100 participants. He insists upon using only that portion of time remaining within this fiscal year. I have indicated that it could extend beyond this fiscal year, even though the moneys are advanced this year to pay for the project.

I think it is a reasonably simple concept to understand because the work has been created this year. If it is a 12-month program, obviously it will extend beyond April. Therefore, the money is in the project to pay for the continua-