

*National Training Act*

Axworthy), have to take responsibility for that. They have to take responsibility for the fact they did not call together those interested persons in the provinces for consultations, and ask them: What kind of occupational training program should we have in this country? What should be the thrust of federal assistance in this field? Through our work in the provinces we know it was provinces like Nova Scotia who pioneered in the field of adult training at a time when it was simply not available to those who had left the school system. The knowledge which they have built up over a long period of time could greatly benefit the constitution and construction of a national training program, but the minister chose not to take that course of action. He chose to go it alone, so to speak, to impart and place the federal will on all provinces, and to say, "Here is the program. Here is what we think it should be. You will have to live with it".

● (2040)

If they continue to take that kind of attitude at the federal level to the involvement of the provinces in matters of common interest, they will destroy the whole basis of federalism in Canada. Surely the constitutional process taught us that. Surely the constitutional process, through which we have just gone has shown the error of unilateral action on the part of the federal authority. Surely the federal authority realizes that the road to successful programs is co-operation and consultation with the provinces, leading to a program which is acceptable to all involved. It was amazing to realize, having gone through the constitutional process and having seen the havoc which it would have wreaked across Canada and the potential harm it would have done, had we not at the last moment sought the concordance of the provinces to the constitutional changes. What irreparable harm could have been done to Canada and the people of Canada.

I want to leave that point by underlining once again that co-operative federalism must be brought back to life in the country, and it must be brought back to life by the persons who form the government. They must abandon the position taken by the Prime Minister that co-operative federalism is dead. They must take every action possible to bring it back to life, and they will not do it by bringing forward legislation like Bill C-115 which does not have the support and the agreement of the provinces across Canada.

We in the PC party are often accused of carrying the case for the provinces, of wanting a Canada which does not have a strong federal authority. I do not believe in that kind of Canada. I do not believe in a kind of Canada which has a federal authority that simply imposes its will from coast to coast without consultation with the legitimate, democratically-elected governments of the provinces, whether it be the New Democratic government which was recently elected in the Province of Manitoba or the government which was re-elected in the Province of Newfoundland. They are all democratically-elected governments, the same as this government represented in the House of Commons was democratically elected. They must share in the Government of Canada. They must co-operate and bring things to a rational conclusion. Otherwise, there will be turmoil and upset in the country. We only have to

look to the Province of Quebec to see what happens when the federal authority and the provincial authority lock horns. Who could possibly gain from that kind of confrontation? We have yet to live through that chapter of our history where we see all those Liberals gathered in the Province of Quebec and gathered in the House of Commons ending in complete disagreement on the course of action which ought to be followed in the country. The government is starting down a road which does not involve co-operative federalism. In the words of the late Right Honourable John Diefenbaker, it has gone down a road which has no ashcans. They will have to bear the responsibility for that course of action.

The reason for bringing forward the measures contained in Bill C-115 surely is the drastic unemployment situation which exists in Canada today. It is trite to say that we have an unemployment rate in excess of 10 per cent. It is trite to say that we have a million and a quarter persons unemployed in Canada. Believe it or not, the situation is even worse than that.

In addition to the one and a quarter million officially unemployed in Canada, there are at least another 250,000 persons who are no longer looking for work. They live in areas like Nova Scotia and Newfoundland where they know there are no jobs available, so they simply stop looking for work; they stay home and find other means of occupying themselves. There is a quarter of a million people like that in Canada who have lost the hope of obtaining employment. Across the country there are an additional 300,000 persons who are working at jobs much below their qualifications, such as school teachers who work in restaurants and engineers who seek minor roles in engineering offices. They are depressed by the situation in which they find themselves. They have all the qualifications. They have worked hard to obtain those qualifications, but they cannot have the kind of work and employment which those qualifications ought to allow them to have. We have to add them on to the list of unemployed. In addition, there are hundreds of thousands of Canadians who are employed part-time. They cannot find full-time jobs, so they work at jobs which only provide payment for a portion of their available time. We must include those in the rolls of the unemployed. When we add them up, there are probably as many as 800,000 people in that position. When we are talking about the unemployed in Canada, we are not only talking about the million and a quarter who are officially unemployed. We are talking about the quarter of a million who have given up looking for work, over a quarter of a million who are working at less than their qualifications, another 800,000 or so persons across Canada who are working part-time and cannot find work to fill their available time. When we add up all these numbers, we do not come to a million and a quarter; we come to a figure well over two million Canadians. We must bear in mind that the work force in Canada numbers only about 11 million Canadians, so almost 25 per cent of the work force in Canada have unemployment problems. This is why the minister must rush into the House of Commons and claim to be doing something about unemployment in Canada.