

Employment

this year and next. The programs can create jobs quickly in situations where immediate employment is needed while more long-term responses are brought to bear.

I want to talk a little bit about young people. In all of its job-creation activities, the government has been particularly sensitive to the needs of young people. In addition to the special methods employed in the general job-creation programs, the particular needs of students for employment experience, career development and earning with which to continue further education has also been recognized. These are being addressed by a \$100 million job-creation program this summer which will create jobs for more than 51,000 young people. Let that figure sink in, hon. members. Think of it, it will help 51,000 young people this summer. It will assist in placing 296,000 more in private sector employment. Have you got that, hon. members? These jobs, whether they are internships in the public service, in the voluntary sector, or jobs on projects operated by the federal, municipal and community sectors across the country, will provide real work experience and earnings for these young people. They say we are not doing anything. What nonsense! I hope those figures have sunk in.

Permanent employment is also something that must always be kept in mind. The government is also aware of the need in certain sectors to work toward the creation of permanent employment. Under the Canada community service project, the funds provided to community agencies are provided for up to three years, with a decreasing amount being provided in the second and third years. This enables agencies to build the activity into their ongoing budget. Many of the jobs created in this program will then be continuing beyond the period of funding.

The long-term Local Employment Assistance Program continues successfully to establish permanent jobs in small community-based commercial enterprises for people who are chronically unemployed. Many of the projects which create jobs for people on this program go on to become independent of program funding and to offer continuing employment prospects for people who would have remained at the margins of the labour force and of the economy.

The government has also recognized that in some parts of the country it is now necessary to move beyond the project by project approach and to provide support through a process of local economic and employment development. I would say this thinking was also reflected in the government's recent reorganization whereby the functions of DREE and ITC were basically merged.

In 13 communities across the country, the concept of local economic development corporations is being tested with encouraging results. Through funding provided by the local economic development assistance program, locally established corporations will be able to bring local support and entrepreneurial talent—and I know the hon. member for Bow River (Mr. Taylor) loves to hear that sort of thing because he, like I, believes in incentive and initiative to bear on the problems and challenges of developing a more secure employment base.

Mr. Beatty: He is a Conservative and you are a Liberal.

Mr. Huntington: You don't understand the budget.

Mr. Smith: These autonomous local bodies are beginning to develop plans and industrial strategies to assist local employment to create business projects and to increase the flow of investment into the community.

The total direct job-creation expenditure of more than \$304 million represents a significant and carefully targeted use of tight resources to increase the stock of jobs and to direct these new jobs toward those who would otherwise, in this situation, face even greater disparity and disadvantage.

I think it is important for these figures to be raised here in the House. If hon. members listened to the debate today and the remarks made by the members on the other side, they would think that nothing was happening on this side of the House. Of course, when you deal with the Tories, it depends which brand you have. If you have a red Tory, he says spend, spend, spend, and more jobs, more jobs. If you have a blue Tory speaking, you hear such things as hold the line on the deficit and let us have less spending. Where are they? I do not know. It depends on whom you listen to. But it is like a revolving door.

But at least in the case of the NDP, we just hear them say spend, spend, spend. What we are trying to do is to spend a reasonable amount in targeted areas, both in terms of different groups in society where there are particular needs, such as women, young people, the handicapped and the native people, and also with particular emphasis in those regions of the country where there is a greater need than the others.

I think that any objective person who looks at their figures will come to the conclusion that this government is making serious and reasonable efforts to come to grips with the job situation in the country at this time.

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to take part in a debate of this nature that is so relevant and so starkly underlined not only by the conditions in our country but the important conference that is going on at this time between the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and the premiers.

One of the great writers of this country, either Hugh MacLennan or Bruce Hutchison once wrote about the two solitudes, the twin solitudes in Canada. By that, he meant the French and English. But I think some of our economic difficulties that are causing the problems with unemployment and other economic vicissitudes in this country are caused by a third solitude, a solitude created by the kind of mandarin mentality that seems to be permeating through the upper echelons of our governmental process, whether they are technocrats, bureaucrats, aristocrats, or whatever, and there seems to be an air of unreality about them. They speak a language which only they can understand. To use a dreadful bureaucratic word, I guess they do not interface with the real world any more. I think Allan Fotheringham, a contemporary writer of style, substance and wit, had something very definitive to say about this budget, which is the cause of much of the economic difficulties in Canada. He said that those dead-eyed guys in