

Adjournment Debate

health and welfare contributions follow those of secured creditors but take precedence over other creditors.

Together with directors' personal liability for unpaid wages and contributions, employees' protection under the bill is considerably improved. A number of commentators on the new legislation have suggested, for further protection, a funded insurance scheme to protect wage earners in cases of bankruptcy and insolvency, and the new bankruptcy legislation authorizes the Superintendent of Bankruptcy to gather additional information which will help evaluate both the problem and the need.

At the present time there is information about unpaid claims against bankrupt estates, but there are three types of claims about which there is no accurate information because there is no statute requiring disclosure of the information necessary to assess the aggregate amount of wages in a given year. These are receivership liquidations, realizations under Section 88 of the Bank Act, and mechanics' lien claims. With this fuller information it will be possible to see exactly what is involved in an insurance scheme which would provide protection for wage earners and avoid the distress the hon. member for Halton has described, and which all of us have encountered at our constituency offices.

INDIAN AFFAIRS—FUNDING OF PROGRAMS FOR TRAINING OF
NATIVE TEACHERS

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, a week ago, on March 13, I asked the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Faulkner) whether he could see his way clear to finding the money to make up the loss of funds for the native teacher training programs which have been such a tremendous success in Manitoba. The programs have been operating for a number of years out of Brandon University, of which my colleague, the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), is the chancellor.

I want to demonstrate the need for these programs by quoting from two studies. One such study was reported in the *Winnipeg Free Press* on March 17, 1979. It summarized a study which was done by Verna Kirkness for the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. It was a report on the education of Indians in federal and provincial schools in Manitoba. I should like to refer to a couple of the illustrations contained in the article. It reads in part as follows:

● (2210)

Seventeen per cent of Indian students in Manitoba fail Grade 1, a recently released study on Indian education reports . . .

Ms. Kirkness reported that 30 per cent of all Indian students are at least one year behind in school for their age . . .

Only 10 per cent of Indian students attend high school—

Then, according to the article, she went on to make recommendations on how to deal with these very serious problems. One of the recommendations is that schools with Indian students should hire native teachers.

[Miss Nicholson.]

The study was conducted jointly by the Native Council of Canada and the native employment division of the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission into the educational status, among other things, of Metis people and non-status Indians. It reads in part as follows:

Approximately one half of the Metis and non-status Indians surveyed had completed nine or more grades of schooling compared to three quarters of the general Canadian population.

In other words, 50 per cent more of the non-native students complete grade 9.

It continued:

The figures for Grade 13 or more—some post-secondary to completion of university degree studies—show that the natives were much less likely to take higher education. Two and one-half per cent of Metis and non-status Indians and 26 per cent of Canadians completed 13 or more grades of schooling.

One of the reasons is that there are so few native teachers. When the New Democratic Party was the government of Manitoba, it decided to do something about that. They established a number of programs operating in and out of Brandon University. There was IMPACTE, the Indian and Metis program for training and education. There was the BUNTEP, the Brandon University Native Teachers' Education Program. Also there was the Winnipeg centre operating in the core area of Winnipeg. These programs were very successful. As I indicated in my question, over 300 people have been certified and graduated with an education degree from these three programs.

What happened? The programs were funded jointly by DREE, that is, the federal government and the province of Manitoba. In 1977-78 they had between \$2.8 million and \$3 million for these programs. In 1978-79 they cut back approximately 20 per cent to \$2.4 million. This year they were cut back again to \$1.99 million. The IMPACTE program was for status and non-status Indians south of latitude 53. It had programs in Brandon University, Swan River, Dauphin and Camperville. The Camperville program has gone.

The BUNTEP program operated north of the 53rd parallel or in unorganized territory. It operated at The Pas, Fairford, Oxford House, Norway House, Cross Lake, Island Lake, Peguis and Split Lake. The program at The Pas has been cancelled and the student population was reduced by 15 per cent.

The program at the Winnipeg centre is under attack also. The special mature program was to help train native people in courses other than teaching. It had 25 to 30 students, and now it has been cut to 15 to 16 students. Approximately 300 people, almost all natives, have graduated as teachers. They are working in the core area of Winnipeg. They are working in many of the schools around the province. The reports I have been able to get from school superintendents are that they are doing superb jobs. They know the native people come from the same background.

● (2215)

For the usual supposed reasons of restraint, the provincial government, which was only paying 40 per cent of the pro-