

Employment

ing. Consequently, it is essential to expand considerably critical trade-skills training and to update the general industrial training program so that our efforts are mainly focused on critical trade skills, the retraining of workers affected by new technologies and the training of unemployed men and women.

Mr. Speaker, concerning unemployed men and women, quite recently in my constituency a plant unfortunately had to lay off a great number of workers. Thanks to the training program, it was possible to redirect those workers to other fields and train them as an extension of the unemployed insurance program. In this way they can take courses in tool-making, welding and other similar courses. I believe that in such circumstances a solution is vocational training so that people in temporary difficulty may acquire skills. The Allmand report suggested there would be a dearth of people to fill those specialized jobs. Of necessity, those people must meet the requirements of employers.

Fourth, Mr. Speaker, I should like to mention a new remedial classes program designed to teach skills for which job opportunities exist on the labour market. Common sense has no jurisdiction, whether provincial or federal, Mr. Speaker, and everyone knows that greater efforts will be required to integrate successfully in the economy the so-called dropouts who, if given a special opportunity to which they are entitled by reason of their special problems, can finally play a useful and honourable role in a society that has a duty to help those in need of such special help in order to become self-reliant in their own and in the state's interest.

By the way, such a program has been in existence for years and is very successful, thanks in particular to the co-operation of businesses—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please. It being six o'clock, I do now leave the chair until eight o'clock.

At 6 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Order, please. When the House rose at six o'clock, the hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Dubois) had the floor.

Mr. Dubois: When the House rose at six o'clock, Mr. Speaker, I was saying that professional training does indeed create new jobs. I had reached my fourth item and I was showing how this result is achieved. This program has been going on for years and is meeting with tremendous success, thanks in part to the support of such corporations as the Bank of Montreal, Consolidated-Bathurst, Bell Canada and Canadair. For it goes without saying, Mr. Speaker, that programs

such as this could not be successful through the efforts of the governments alone, for our economic system is based mainly on private enterprise.

Private enterprise must, therefore, help assess and identify its needs for skilled workers before the labour force can be trained. It should also monitor the relevancy and quality of the information we have on the labour market situation. Fifth, Mr. Speaker, I should like to deal with equal opportunities for women and other people with special needs, such as the Indians whose involvement in the labour force will increase considerably over the next decade, especially in western Canada. We must see to it that the handicapped and other disadvantaged people acquire or develop the new skills they need to have access to the good jobs of the future. Concerning the assistance which handicapped people need, the Government of Canada, through its Department of Employment and Immigration, has implemented a program to encourage corporations to hire them.

Now that 1981, a special year for the handicapped persons, is over, I think we can honestly say that this program has been tremendously successful in Canada and has helped these people join the labour force. Sixth, there are new programs which will make it possible for voluntary and non-profit organizations to take part in the training of our labour force. Seventh, a manpower mobility program will help our workers, especially those living in the province of Quebec, to participate in the great projects under way in other regions and from which all provinces should benefit. It is not by raising walls around our towns, regions and provinces that we will help our workers, especially if we deprive them of the opportunity—I should say the right—to get a job on which they could easily support their families.

Something which appears to have upset the provinces recently is the desire of the federal government, which contributes financially to a very large extent to the training of workers, to have its involvement known to the public. I feel this is just as reasonable as wanting the public to believe that because this is connected with education, all the money is coming from the provinces. I feel it is really important for the Quebec people to know that this program is financed largely by the Canadian government, which has been allocating funds to it for many years. To my mind, a national training program must be flexible and readily adaptable to the needs of changing situations. That is why a bill has already been introduced by the Minister of Employment and Immigration providing for the extension of the training period beyond the present 52 weeks, greater access to training, simpler and improved administration of the training program as well as greater involvement of the private sector and other groups concerned with on-the-job training.

As I mentioned earlier, the private sector must become increasingly involved in the program, in order to assess and define the needs of specialized workers with a view to providing such training as will meet their needs. It is also to be hoped