

Supply

I am pleased to be able to tell my honourable colleague, that as of the summer of 1990, the government had given the Montreal area more than \$2 million through the Work Orientation Workshops, and 1,000 area students took part in them. For instance, on the South Shore only, \$920,000 were spent on 467 participants.

This summer, the Quebec component of the Work Orientation Workshops will receive a total of \$8.1 million, over and above a supplementary \$2.1 million for year-round projects.

On May 9th, the Minister of State for Youth officially opened for the summer the 94 Canada Employment Centres for Students that are to be found in Quebec. Four of these centres are in the Montreal area. I can assure my honourable colleague that employees in these centres know full well how hard it is for young people in Montreal to find a job and that they use all their skills to help them.

As I was saying a while ago, everyone here knows that the whole world is going through very difficult economic times. Nevertheless, I am sure that the members of this House will recognize that the situation would be far worse for young Canadians were it not for the efficient assistance programs brought forth by this government. I am not only talking about the components of Challenge '91 I have just mentioned, but also about a few others such as the Student Business Loans Program which is administered by the Federal Business Development Bank and assists student entrepreneurs who wish to create their own summer jobs.

Last year in Quebec, 276 loans were approved for a total of \$688,700 which led to the creation of 918 summer jobs. This is a sizeable increase of 72 per cent compared with the number of jobs created the previous year. And this year, this component has an over-all operating budget of \$900,000. Moreover, we will grant \$805,000 more for the Business Drive for Jobs component under which business associations are encouraged to create summer jobs for students within the business community without the help of salary subsidies.

We have also established the Native probationers Program which is offered during the summer and give

native students the opportunity to work in Employment and Immigration offices.

Mr. Speaker, by taking advantage of Challenge '91 Program, employers in Montreal and across Canada will have a unique opportunity to raise the potential of our future Canadian labour force. For students, as for other young people, the Challenge '91 components meet a wide range of employment needs including help for students who want to start a business and counselling to younger students who hesitate between staying in school and joining the work force.

Our action is an attempt at helping young people from Montreal and from all over the country, choose between their staying in school or going into the labour market. Our programs are intended to prepare our youths for employment. However, we should never go so far as to tell our young people to get a job instead of finishing school. That is why our government implemented its stay-in-school initiative in February 1990. Over five years, this project should receive \$296 million. There is an alarming 30 per cent drop-out rate in Canada at the high school level. That rate could well be the highest in all of the industrialized world. My hon. colleague will recognize, I am sure, that this figure has to be checked.

• (1310)

Mr. Speaker, we all know that, by the year 2000, for two thirds of all new jobs, candidates will be required to have at least a high school diploma and, in many cases, five years of post-secondary schooling.

Students who drop out of school will earn much less than those with a high school degree and will have a much harder time finding and keeping a job. School drop-outs will be unemployed for longer periods of time than other workers. Either they will have to accept low-paid, low-skill jobs or make do with unemployment or some other type of income support. We must not let such a thing happen, and this government is committed to do everything possible to help youths in Montreal and across the country develop their intellectual potential.

Of course, we know that lack of education is an obstacle, and not only on a personal level. It can also translate into a much heavier burden on public assistance programs during a severe recession as the one we are experiencing now.