

*Supply*

[English]

The Government is not discriminating against the non-profit sector through its Challenge '86 funding. This year the private sector is more active in the program with 26 per cent more applications than last year. Non-profit applications are at about the same level as last year. In these circumstances it is only natural to expect more funds to be directed toward the private sector than was the case last year. As I have indicated, in line with the Canadian Jobs Strategy, we welcome private sector participation. I find it hard to understand why some Members can be so totally against young students getting jobs which usually last longer, pay better and in which they can really obtain practical experience, as in the private sector. This is where the great majority of them will find permanent, rewarding employment upon graduation. There are no quotas. We are trying to encourage good balance at the national level between private sector and non-private sector jobs. We are thinking primarily of the students and of their future careers.

• (1640)

To date, \$77 million has been allocated to the non-profit sector. Surely there is a large number of jobs being created and a large number of needy people being helped. Our goal is to help young people move in a direction that will prove advantageous to them over the long run. They must fasten their hopes and aspirations on jobs that will open up a world of opportunity.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, this year the Government spent about 700 million dollars on the youth employment and training program. This represents about 40 per cent of total funding allocated to the Canadian Jobs Strategy. Furthermore, the Government will spend 30 million dollars on hiring thousands of young people to work for the Census this summer. And through our network of 450 Canada Employment Centres for Students, we are once again working together with business, local agencies and Governments to provide jobs for as many as 435,000 students, and maybe more.

Needless to say, these students need our support and the co-operation of all sectors in our country.

I would like to emphasize the word *job*. Our task consists in working very closely with other sectors to help young people, especially those who manage to find a job or would be able to do so: Helping young people is our aim.

[English]

One component of Challenge '86 deals particularly with potential school drop-outs and young people with learning disabilities. It was started as a pilot project in 1985 and was called Work Orientation Workshops or WOW. These workshops are conducted in partnership with community organizations, businesses, social service agencies and local school boards. Together they help ensure that these young people overcome barriers to future participation in our labour market. A combination of workshops and on-the-job skills training

encourages them to continue their schooling or seek more specific training related to their ambitions. These are significant initiatives. Students not only get a chance to earn wages but also to build a bridge between their education and the real world of work.

We are not just concerned with students. The Canadian Jobs Strategy focuses on the needs of young people who have left school and are currently at odds with the labour market. Already thousands of these young people are participating in the Job Entry Program. Let me give the House an example of this.

A young woman visited one of our Canada Employment Centres in southern Ontario recently. She is a high school drop-out, depressed and on welfare, with a history of brief work spells interrupted by long periods of unemployment. She talked to an employment counsellor, who referred her to the Job Entry Program. Through this program, she has been receiving computer-based instruction from a private training firm. She is now applying these skills in the business office of a major hotel. She is not only learning in the classroom but she is also gaining practical work experience and training in the workplace. She is now much more confident about her chances.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, this is just one young woman, but this small investment is very important to her future career. And so society has another winner. This combination of on-the-job training and institutional training, plus practical experience, makes it much easier for our young people to enter the labour market.

[English]

I repeat that our concern is with people, particularly young people. If Canada is to sustain the momentum for economic renewal, we must use our resources in an effective way. Challenge '86 was designed as a job-creation and a skills-training program. The Government's determination is that the funds allocated to the program will be invested in those projects and in creating opportunities which will produce the largest possible number of jobs for young Canadians.

**Mr. McCurdy:** Mr. Speaker, earlier I referred to the complacent incompetence with which the Ministry of State for Youth is operated. Surely to have come to the House with words that were completely written out on 20 sheets of paper with a complete absence of any knowledge of the content of debate is a demonstration of the validity of that allegation and the refusal of the Government to address the real issues.

We heard from the Minister a failed leap of rhetoric in her criticism of the language of Shakespeare, but I do congratulate her for the attempt. She said that one should not leap over a chasm in two leaps. We know that the Minister has already taken one leap from her own Ministry to the Department of Employment and Immigration and we know what the end of that will be.