

*Supply*

Challenge program equivalent to what it was the year before last, before it savaged it in 1989. It should provide \$140 million for the SEED program and commensurately increase the over-all funding for the Challenge program so that those kids who are just leaving high school will also have an opportunity to get jobs.

There has been, within the context of this debate about youth unemployment, some debate about the question of education. The Minister of State for Youth chose in this debate about jobs for youth, for students, to talk about this government's promises in the throne speech to achieve certain goals: the elimination of illiteracy, an increase in the number of graduates in science and engineering, to double the number of workers who have access to training and so on. Then arose, as always has arisen, the debate about jurisdictional problems. This is not a debate about education, as such. It is a debate about how kids have to have money in their pocket to continue their education.

I think it is important to say a few words in the context of this over-all debate, which seen from a certain perspective is: How do you encourage kids to continue in school? Apart from the question of how much financing is available, we have the question of the character of what is going to be accessible to them in terms of training and education. I will simply say what I have said before, there is no jurisdictional problem for the proper exercise of leadership within the context of a full recognition that those jurisdictional problems do exist.

Jurisdiction has been used before as an excuse for doing nothing. My fear is that it will continue to be used as an excuse for doing nothing, to the further detriment of that economic future that all claim Canada must pursue.

I just want to say some final words about the question of student aid. As I indicated earlier, rather than finding creative ways to increase the funding assistance available to students, the government instead imposed a 3 per cent surcharge on student loans, when what is really needed are general improvements in the program.

On the weekend I was talking to representatives of part-time students who have been petitioning this government and the government before it repeatedly, so that part-time students will have the benefit of the same kind of financial aid that is available to full-time students. This is an important consideration because one of the circumstances is what this government has done to

student employment opportunities. There are going to be increasing numbers of part-time students. Those students should have access to same quality of education with the same kind of support available to them as do the full-time students.

I ask this government to do one other thing in addition to increasing funding in the Challenge program and that is to get busy on the issue of student aid.

We have had committees and we have had promises and we have had nothing done. It is about time something was done in the area of the student loan program to ensure that there will be access for part-time students on the same basis as other students.

As long as we have the situation we have at hand where students cannot get summer jobs, we are going to have a real problem in encouraging people in the part-time sphere and they too, of course, will need jobs that in the present circumstances of a recession may not be available to them.

Therefore, in closing, I must confess some fatigue in repeating a debate that has been repeated so often in this House within the context of complete disregard of a problem that has so characterized this government. There is a need, a real need among students to be able to find jobs, not handouts, in order to continue their education.

The unemployment rate has become worse. It is practically as bad now as it was during the peak of the last recession, 16 per cent versus 17 per cent. This government needs to take initiatives to make more funding available so those students can work. It needs to re-examine its actions that have increased the costs for education. It has to look at what it has done to the university system and the college system and so on, that has made post-secondary education less accessible and less valuable than it was in the past.

Let us then put some substance into their expression of concern that we need to do so much to create a knowledge based society. Let us give real access to that knowledge to the students. Let us give them jobs. Let us give them institutions where they can learn. Let us take the necessary initiatives in education where this government and other governments have refused to undertake. Let us really commit ourselves to creating the knowledge based society that will provide a standard of living in Canada that Canada must have and which will support the social programs that some must have.