

Supply

months. They serve as a key link in the communities between the federal effort and summer student employment, other levels of government and the private sector. In 1981-82 Canada employment centres for students accounted for some 325,961 placements in both the public and the private sector. In all, 695,365 registrations were taken and 355,769 job vacancies were listed with these student centres. Approximately 135,226 post-secondary students were placed in jobs while the remaining 190,735 placements were secondary students. This summer, despite the tight economic situation the centres expect to find employment for some 314,400 students.

The Canada Employment and Immigration Commission also operates a number of year-round programs directed specifically toward youth. These include Canada employment centres on campus, the international young workers exchange, and special youth employment centres.

The youth employment centres which operate in four provinces, Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia, are an extension of the Canada employment centres for students and are designed to intensify employment services for hard to place youth. They help young people develop realistic occupation and vocational plans, assist them in gaining useful work experience, and they co-ordinate the efforts of local business and labour organizations as well as other organizations and individuals interested in maximizing employment opportunities for youth in the community.

While all of the programs I have described have been developed specifically for youth, young people are also a major beneficiary of all the job creation and employment development programs offered by the government.

These programs are particularly targeted toward areas of high unemployment. Besides the opportunity to earn income at a time when they would otherwise have to rely on unemployment insurance or welfare, participants in these programs benefit by developing good work habits, learning skills that will be of use in future jobs and establishing a stable employment pattern.

Young people aged 25 and under are a major target of all these programs and it is estimated that they represent close to half the participants. In 1981-82, these figures included some 1,057 young people in the local employment assistance programs; 874 in Canada community services projects; 9,979 in the first round of Canada community development projects and 12,928 in the second round; 343 participants in the new technology employment program and 3,000 in the program for the employment disadvantaged. As well, young people are major participants in the federal training programs and represent 45 per cent of the clients of Canada employment centres and 50 per cent of the clients of the federally-funded Outreach projects.

All of these efforts are designed to assist severely unemployed youth in established positive employment patterns and in easing the transition from school to work for youth in general. While they have proved to be successful, we are not stopping here. Intensive efforts are currently being made within the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission

to identify the best methods for assisting young people in becoming productive members of our work force. One of the first results of this effort was the allocation, last March, of an additional \$188 million for year-round training initiatives, principally for the benefit of young people. This funding will open up several thousand new training places in skills currently in demand, such as welders, machinists and those in high technology occupations.

Our commitment to the young people of Canada is a heavy one, Mr. Speaker, but it is really an investment in the future of our country. I can assure you that in job creation, as in training, our efforts will continue to see that the employment needs of our youth are met.

Mr. Chuck Cook (North Vancouver-Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, my children have been robbed of their future by a succession of Liberal governments.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Cook: My grandchildren have been robbed of their heritage by a succession of Liberal governments. The national debt of this country means that my children and my grandchildren are faced with a debt that it may take their children's children to pay off.

Why do we have this kind of debate today? Why do we have this problem in the country today? We have it because the Liberals have been so profligate in their spending over the years that they do not have the money to solve this problem today.

In the first four months of 1981, in British Columbia the youth unemployment rate was 11.5 per cent, and already in the first four months of 1982 it has reached 18.7 per cent. We do not have any answer to that, Mr. Speaker.

In British Columbia, Alcan will employ 80 students in Kitimat this year when last year over 200 students got jobs there. Abitibi Price Inc. and British Columbia Forest Products Limited employed hundreds of students last year but will employ very few this year.

I must stop here, Mr. Speaker. I have been listening to Liberal statistics during this debate and, quite frankly, now I should like to talk about heartbreak, about spirits that are broken and about the many young people who are developing the view that there is no hope for them. Unfortunately, with the kind of government we have, I have no hope to offer them. Four hundred youth employment offices across the country! Well, isn't that a big deal. Except that those 400 offices are telling people between 15 and 24 that there are no jobs. Is this government creating any jobs? No, it is not. They talk statistics, this, that and the other, but are they doing anything? Are they really concerned about the youth of this country? No, they are not. Do not give me statistics, tell me about the young lad who really wants to work but is told there are no jobs.

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What is the result of this? What really gets to me is that a young person wants to do something, wants to have a job, and