

Employment

better benefit the public. Such projects should be accepted, no matter the quota or the amounts of money involved. It may be that in a riding like mine 75 per cent of the community organizations would have the best projects, or it may be that in another riding elsewhere in the country 80 per cent of the best projects would come from the private sector, so these would be accepted.

We at the federal Government level are making a mistake. I should think that all Members, particularly in Ontario and Quebec, know that every member of the provincial legislature has a budget for recreational activities, a budget which ranges from \$30,000 to \$50,000, and recommendations can be made to give grants or assistance to any non-profit organization related to schools, the elderly, sports, or recreational activities.

Unfortunately the federal Government does not make this kind of grants. The only way we can help various organizations is through employment creation programs. I am sure all Hon. Members agree that the Government should launch the kinds of programs available at the provincial level, programs to fund applicants submitting financial statements and where Members might act as advisers. There is a program at the Department of Secretary of State, for example, so all we need to do is to provide funding for each riding and Members could make recommendations from a list of projects. For instance, this organization in my riding is active in such or such a field and needs \$2,000 to carry out this or that project.

I think that setting all political considerations aside, Members should get together and pressure governments to do something about this. And I don't see this as a way to win votes. It's not a matter of winning votes, because I have won elections without having those budgets. There are other people here who were elected without the benefit of this funding.

In any case, I think it would help give Quebecers and Canadians generally a perception of the federal presence across the country.

If we consider sports, I have a list of organizations here from the riding of Lac-Saint-Jean. Madam Speaker, these organizations do not receive federal grants but they are eligible for grants at the provincial level. The federal Government is prepared to provide funding for skating, hockey, skiing and athletics, but only for top players and young people who do well in competition.

I think that organizations involved in sports, recreation, cultural activities and social concerns, whether they are in Vancouver, Alberta, New Brunswick, Quebec, the Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean area, or anywhere else in Canada, should be eligible for federal grants. After all, the people in these ridings pay federal income tax. I hope Hon. Members will be agreeable to the Government earmarking funds for this purpose.

• (1710)

[English]

Mr. G. M. Gurbin (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, I am pleased to be able to respond at least in part to the motion put forward by my colleague, the Hon. Member for Montréal—Sainte-Marie (Mr. Malépart). I did not quite follow the last intervention the Hon. Member made regarding sports, but I think we will have to leave the question of sports aside for today. We can get involved in sporting activities another day.

The essence of the motion the Hon. Member has proposed has really to do with the Canadian Jobs Strategy and the difference between what that Hon. Member would do as a part of a Government and what this Government has done with remarkable success since 1984. I think all Canadians would be interested in knowing that 610,000 new jobs have been created since September 1984 and there has been a net increase of 255,000 Canadians of all ages, all stripes and both sexes employed who were not employed before. This has occurred largely because of the approach the Government has taken to provide Canadians with job opportunities.

The motion suggests that we have provided these jobs by somehow causing non-profit organizations or community groups to do without or to not be allowed to participate in the activities we are trying to encourage. That is far from the truth. The figures do not justify any of the suggestions in the Hon. Member's motion or any of the comments he has made.

The Hon. Member has spoken of the groups in his riding. It is fair to say that not every group has been funded, but neither have they ever all been funded.

In the short time I have, I would like first to describe the Canadian Jobs Strategy. It consists of about six different parts and Community Futures, one part of the Canadian Jobs Strategy, and provides perhaps the best example of how we are trying to encourage community activity. That program is 100 per cent oriented toward letting individual communities themselves determine their futures and their best opportunities. The program itself is entirely based on flexibility and on opportunities for long-term jobs, not make-work projects. It is not for a Member of Parliament from any constituency to give a person a job for a few weeks and then leave that worker hanging with no future, no dignity and no hope to be able to provide for security in the long term.

We have provided the Canadian Jobs Strategy with programs like Community Futures, Job Development and Challenge programs. We have spoken of private and non-private sectors. Under the Challenge '86 Program, the total number of jobs provided by the private sector in 1986 is 29,619 and for the non-private sector, that figure is 48,204. The percentages are the most important in terms of the motion before us. The percentages entirely refute anything the Hon. Member has suggested or tried to suggest. The total percentage of jobs created in the private sector is 38.1 while in the