

Supply

the Government's most important programs designed to address the problem of youth unemployment, the Career Access Program, which we support.

My question is prompted by a press release issued yesterday, May 23, by the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Roberts). I will not read the press release but it announces under the Minister's name that Imperial Oil Limited, which we all know to be a multinational company operating in all parts of Canada, will provide 100 jobs through the Career Access job creation program to recent post-secondary graduates and young inexperienced persons. It goes on to state that placements will take place across Canada from Newfoundland to British Columbia and the Northwest Territories. It will benefit 68 university graduates, 9 technicians and 11 graduates of CGEP, not to mention some from a couple of community colleges. One hundred people, Mr. Speaker, from a major multinational company, which represents about one two hundredth of one per cent of the latest unemployment figures for youth. That means there are still 536,900 young people unemployed. This indicates to me that the program is not going well. If the private sector, especially the small business sector, is going to be the principal motor in getting this program operative, and we see a big company like Imperial Oil providing only 100 places, then I have grave doubts about the success of this program to address the serious problem of youth unemployment.

[Translation]

Mrs. Hervieux-Payette: Mr. Speaker, first I would like to take this opportunity to commend the management of Esso Imperial, for helping us give our young people that vital extra training that will allow them to enter the labour market and get job experience. I would like to point out to the Hon. Member that for 1984-1985, a quarter of a billion, that is \$250.6 million, will be provided for the Career Access Program.

[English]

That is 85,000 jobs and he was talking about 100. I would like to remind the Hon. Member that there are over half a million small businesses in this country and if they would just take one unemployed youth under Career Access they would all be employed. My goal is to place them in any corporation willing to give them the essential training they need to be in the workplace, a career-related kind of training. I compliment those who are willing to help us complement their formal education in school.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, we want the Minister to succeed. We support the Career Access Program. We also recognize, as I am sure she does, that youth unemployment is probably the most serious social problem in the country today. Our concern is that because of high interest rates the small business sector is not able to take advantage of this program because of its 50-50 aspect. If they cannot take advantage of it because of high interest rates, and large multi-nationals like Imperial Oil can only provide 100 jobs, that raises grave doubts about whether this program will succeed unless the

Government can get its monetary policy under control. That is the concern I want to express to the Minister.

● (1550)

Mrs. Hervieux-Payette: Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind my hon. colleague that we just added \$20 million to the Career Access Program. If the program was not successful and if the business community was not responding well, I have some doubt whether my hon. colleague, the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Roberts) would add money. As the Hon. Member knows, as the Minister of State (Youth) I am not responsible for the application of that measure. That is within the responsibility of my colleague, the Minister of Employment and Immigration. The program is working well.

I recognize that sometimes small businesses do not have access to this program. However, other programs are available as well. On-the-job training programs and other programs exist. This particular one is for well trained students graduating from colleges and universities throughout the country who are having problems obtaining their first jobs and getting the experience related to their education. It is especially for that kind of student. They are not the less privileged ones in the country. They are those who have a fine education but have a difficulty.

I would also like to remind my hon. colleague that the oil industry is not the most job creative. It is in the small and medium-sized businesses that we are looking for jobs for our young people. The recovery is showing some progress. I am sure that in the coming months small businesses will have access. Actually, the program is going well.

Mr. Malone: Mr. Speaker, I have a question and perhaps one short supplementary question. The Minister has suggested that part of the cause of youth unemployment has been in the area of education. By implication she has indicated that the provinces have not done an adequate job in education. Which provinces have failed in providing appropriate education? In her view, has any province provided adequate education in light of the present conditions of our times?

Mrs. Hervieux-Payette: Mr. Speaker, I welcome this question. As former chairperson of a schoolboard for six years I know quite well what kind of training we are providing in schools in Quebec. I am not placing any blame on any institution in the country. I think there is an over-all responsibility throughout the country in management, business and the education sector to ensure that training is available and that we are filling that gap. I will not put the blame on the curriculum. We have the best educated generation of young people in our country in all our history. It is not education per se that we have to put the blame on.

I am trying to ensure that the unions are talking to the education system as well as the education system talking to management. I think that a concerted approach to youth unemployment is the only solution. It is not by blaming each other, other governments or other socio-economic partners that