

The Address—Mr. Roberts

million to the Environment 2000 Program and have increased the basic funding of the Summer Canada Program by another \$70 million.

I see Mr. Speaker indicating that my time is running short. Therefore I will emphasize only one last point. I spoke of the increase by \$400 million overall for job creation and of the \$266 million for young people, which will lead to 124,000 new participants. I must emphasize for the sake of accuracy that that is in addition to the already dedicated budget for those purposes and that, therefore, the overall effect, looking ahead to 1984-85, is that there will be something like well over 500,000 Canadians taking advantage of our job-creation and training program and indeed something like four million Canadians using the employment services we will provide. Overall, something like more than 300,000 young people will be involved in our job-creation and training programs and close to 2,400,000 of them will be using our employment services. Either or these is a substantial contribution to the problems of unemployment in our society.

Mr. Forrestall: Mr. Speaker, the Minister seems to have a wealth of statistical information at hand. Could he comment a little further in that light and tell us whether or not the criteria have been developed for the \$300 million in the special employment initiatives fund? Could he tell us what the criteria will be, when Hon. Members of the House will be aware of them and how we might have access to them?

Mr. Roberts: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure whether I have the precise criteria at hand. The criteria have been developed for the program. This question was raised before the parliamentary committee. A letter has been prepared—and I signed it earlier today—to the committee Chairman indicating what the criteria are. I had hoped to do that a little earlier but my health over the last two days has had me out of the office. The criteria have been forwarded to the committee clerk as promised. I assume they will be available to Members tomorrow or the day after.

● (1610)

Mr. Forrestall: Mr. Speaker, will the Minister take the House into his confidence and extend the courtesy of circulating that criteria to Members' offices? I appreciate the Minister's response. It did pose a bit of a difficult problem. If he will consider circulating the criteria to Hon. Members' offices, it would be appreciated. It would be helpful. The Minister has some statistics. Of the 283 special recovery projects, how many of them are in ridings held by sitting Liberal Members of Parliament?

Mr. Roberts: Mr. Speaker, in reply to the first part of the question, my understanding of the process is that the letter goes to the clerk of the committee and is automatically distributed to the Members.

Mr. Forrestall: I mean to all Hon. Members.

Mr. Roberts: I can undertake to have that happen or suggest that they read the committee report. I will respond to the Hon. Member's concern.

As far as the second part of his question is concerned, I cannot reply in a specific way. I can say generally that these projects are all across the country. There is a whole variety of them west of Winnipeg. To the best of my recollection we, unfortunately, have very few Members of Parliament from there. Looking at those projects, I do not think he will find there has been an extraordinary bias in favour of one part of the country or another.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister a question concerning the constituency advisory councils which at one time were acceptable to the Ministry—not in his day—for advising Members and the officials as to the acceptability or otherwise of applications under one or another of the variety of programs that his Ministry has developed. Can he explain why he no longer accepts constituency advisory councils? I had set one up. I was told in very clear terms that if I did not show up for the meeting, his officials would not show up either. I was upset by that particular comment in a telephone conversation. I hope that the man was speaking a little bit out of turn. Because the constituency advisory councils are drawn from people who live in the riding 24 hours of the day, 30 or 31 days of the month, whereas unfortunately I am not able to do that, they are much better able to advise on applications than even I might do.

Mr. Roberts: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure whether the specific instance the Hon. Member referred to was in my time or before it. If it was in my time, I would like to get the detail from him and find out what happened. I would say generally that I will be reviewing the question of an advisory council. Speaking personally, as a Member I found the advisory council process to be very useful. I am not sure that I should impose it on Members, but it might well be desirable to give them the option of establishing one. That is something I propose to review after this year's experience, which is my first year's experience in this portfolio. I take it we are referring to the constituency allocation portion of the Canada Works Program, which is not the whole program. It seems there is a lot of sense in Members establishing an advisory council for a variety of reasons. I did that and I found it very useful. This is something I will be reviewing. I am interested to have the Hon. Member's representations on it.

Mr. Oberle: Mr. Speaker, as the Minister knows, the economic performance of a country is in part measured by statistics on unemployment and job creation. In Question Period today, the Minister of Finance again cited statistics which had to do with comparing Canada to other countries in terms of the number of jobs being created. Disregarding the value and the effectiveness of some of the programs which the Minister enumerated in his speech, does he agree that many of the numbers in the statistics with regard to jobs that have been created as they relate to his program really relate to temporary jobs? In some cases, some of the 400,000 jobs that have been