

Adjournment Debate

tions were evident in the audits is under way. These groups are administrative services, primary products inspection and social science support.

The Government is taking even further steps to correct the situation, and I should like to take this opportunity to review some of them. There is a revision and enhancement of the classification monitoring and audit system to provide systematic and integrated information on the relative performance of the classification system down to the departmental level. Information such as this has not been available previously, except in cases where a central audit, with an attendant high resource level, was conducted. Thus, there will be information available not only to pinpoint problem areas where improvement is required but to remove restraints to managerial flexibility where a continuing and sustained high level of performance in job classification is demonstrated. I could go on—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I know the Hon. Member could, but I regret to inform him that his time has expired.

EMPLOYMENT—SUMMER JOBS FOR STUDENTS. (B) REQUEST FOR ANNOUNCEMENT OF PLANS

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Mr. Speaker, on December 21 I asked the Minister about her plans for a youth summer works program. I asked her how many jobs, what opportunities and how much money, et cetera, would be available for young students, but I did not receive an answer then. I anxiously awaited the announcement yesterday by the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Miss MacDonald) and the Minister of State for Youth (Mrs. Champagne). I thought the Ministers would give me the opportunity to accord them accolades personally and politically if new and more jobs for youth had been announced. I thought these Ministers would seize an opportunity to enhance their credibility and prove their concern for the crucial problem for our young people. Instead, their announced program attempts to pull the wool over the eyes of our young people and tries to convince them that they are getting a better deal.

• (1810)

“Let’s make a deal” may be a game between government officials and private business, but it certainly is not one the youth of this country want to play. Liberal Governments made every year one commitment in which young Canadians were treated as a priority for they are the future of this country, and we intend to follow that tradition. The present Government has shown no such commitment.

Last year the Liberal Government set aside \$200 million for summer employment programs. The Minister of Employment and Immigration knows full well that the \$85 million summer budget she keeps referring to represents the A base figure, the starting point of departure to which each year we added increased funds.

An increase of 30 per cent was announced for 1985, increasing the program from \$157 million to \$200 million. Given the

inflation rate, but also given the fact that even with the Liberal program allocations last year, 180,000 students still could not find employment, the Conservative budget of \$205 million is even more grossly inadequate. These are simple facts which are obvious to students and to the Canadian public. Who is the Government trying to fool? Since coming to power five months ago, the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) has all but ignored the plight of our unemployed youth.

During the election campaign, youth were one of his top priorities. He then proceeded to appoint a Minister of State for Youth to act as their spokesperson and he gave her authority as Minister of State for untroubled youth. His Minister of Employment is great at consultation, but when it comes to positive action, she falls short.

What this Government is good at is cutting budgets. In the Treasury Board expenditures and programs statement, there were cuts to Canada Student Loans. The General Industrial Training program, the Young Workers exchange program, Summer Canada, Environment 2000, Young Entrepreneurs, Katimavik, and Parks Canada were cut. If you add it all up, it is over \$215 million.

In the Challenge '85 summer Canada work project for our youth, the provincial allocations represent cuts in comparison to last year’s budget in terms of real dollars.

To cite just one example, after taking into account the 30 per cent increase proposed by the Liberal Government for Summer Canada, Newfoundland was going to receive \$2.4 million more than proposed this year, while Alberta, where unemployment is lower, would have received \$5 million less. Her allocations are based on unemployment rates, yet the figures contradict this. In addition, she proposes putting \$10 million into federal agency budgets. Considering these are the same budgets which were cut in November, it appears she is trying to replace fired and laid-off staff with cheap student labour.

Moreover, even as late as this morning’s *Canada AM* program, the Canadian Federation of Students was not consulted beforehand. First the cuts, then the announcements of new programs were made. Students are outraged and disappointed, and rightly so. Students are concerned about planning their academic and career futures. They have been told, and it is a well-documented fact, that to increase their chances in a future job market, education is vital. Yet without sufficient employment programs, they can scarcely afford to finance their studies. Students need to work a minimum of 16 weeks to cover tuition costs. The programs announced will, therefore, have to be in place, with all the forms completed and processed, interviews finished, staff hired, and materials purchased by the end of April. The forms will not even be in Employment Centres before the end of February. The Minister for Youth stated earlier that she could not perform magic, but that is what will be needed to pull off this program.

Students are receiving negative signals concerning continuing their education. The Bovey Commission has recommended tuition hikes and the budget for Canada Student Loans has been frozen. The dismal scenario is such that, if the summer