

*Oral Questions*

people of Canada will get the maximum impact and the maximum beneficial results from our money.

**Mr. McGrath:** Supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The Hon. Member has had two. A brief supplementary.

\* \* \*

**CANADA WORKS PROGRAM**

## SIZE OF CONSTITUENCY FUNDING

**Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. Incidentally, the Minister's last statement will come as news to the 550,000 young people who are still unemployed.

The Minister of Employment and Immigration reduced the constituency allocations under Canada Works by one half, by \$100,000. At the same time he expanded the Program to include the private sector. The consequence of that is that there are millions of dollars worth of applications now coming to Members of Parliament for their signature. What advice does he have for Members of Parliament who now have to explain to the private sector that there are, in fact, no funds to fund their programs?

**Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I would have to correct a slight inexactitude in the Hon. Member's statement. It is not that the funding has been reduced by half to \$100,000, it is that the minimum funding is down to \$100,000. Above and beyond that there is an allocation which is basically rooted in the labour surplus rate which exists in each constituency, so that there are many, many constituencies which receive far more than \$100,000, indeed up to \$3 million, which is the upper limit for a constituency. Therefore, whether there is a reduction in comparison with last year will depend on whether a constituency is one in which there is a high labour surplus rate or not.

I will take the Hon. Member's concluding remarks in relation to the funding for the Program as a representation that more funds be provided, and I will give serious consideration to that representation.

\* \* \*

**EMPLOYMENT**

## GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS FOR JOB-CREATION PROGRAMS

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the same Minister. I am sure the Minister has read, as I have, the leaked outline Speech from the Throne which comprises a so-called "cafeteria" of job-creation gimmicks. Will the Minister commit to the House that this cafeteria of so-called job-creation programs is not

simply rearranging or renaming programs, or rechanneling the funds, simply to give the impression of activity purely for political reasons, and to raise the expectations of those who are out of jobs right now?

**Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I would make two replies to that question. First, I believe the programs which we have presented now, and perhaps the new programs that we will be presenting, are programs of great importance and substance and not simply rearrangements or cosmetics, in the Hon. Member's words. I think he should also recognize that there are very substantial funds already being spent.

It is not simply a question of doing things that are new. Something over \$350 million is being spent each year on training. Close to one-half a billion dollars is being spent on job creation, and \$140 million on employment counselling and placement services. There are well over two million young people in this country who, over the past year, have used services provided by the Employment and Immigration Commission.

**Mr. Wilson:** It sounds like the Government is planning again to rearrange the deck chairs on the *Titanic*.

## REQUEST FOR NEW POLICIES

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** Mr. Speaker, surely the Government must realize that this last recession was a warning. It was a very serious recession, but not nearly so severe as the next recession will be if fundamental policy changes are not introduced in the next Speech from the Throne.

With current unemployment as it is, how can the Government think only of tinkering with job-creation programs such as a conservation corps, cleaning of trails in the woods, and wage subsidies, when it should be proposing far more extensive policies to address the problems of the technological revolution, the new competitive position of countries like Brazil and Korea, and the very serious problem of the complexity of the Canadian tax system?

**Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, we are not rearranging programs. We have undertaken intensive efforts to find new approaches by, yes, using existing money more effectively, and finding new approaches in support of employment, particularly on the part of young people in this society.

The Hon. Member criticizes that approach. I suggest to him that it is far more effective than that which was followed by the Government of which he was a member, which suggested closing down Canada Works and Summer Canada.