

*Oral Questions*

the circumstances, it is clear, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister of State (Youth) confirms the view that the Minister of Finance has not fulfilled the expectations of Canada's youth. Could the Minister of State (Youth), who has mentioned programs that might be introduced this fall, inform the House today, to give young Canadians something to hope for, what her intentions are or exactly what kind of programs she intends to introduce, and, I hope, as soon as possible?

**Hon. Céline Hervieux-Payette (Minister of State (Youth)):** Mr. Speaker, I do not think my comments contradict what the Minister of Finance said. With the Minister, I realize that the federal Government has done a great deal for youth. However, I think we should do more, and I believe that the steps my colleague, the Minister of National Health and Welfare, has taken together with her provincial counterpart, Mrs. Marois, namely to add \$59 million to help young drop-outs and young people on welfare, are an example of the co-operation shown by the federal Government. We are negotiating with other provinces, and at this time I can give my hon. colleague the assurance that if Ontario and other provinces are willing to increase benefits for young people in order to give them additional training or let them do community work or seek additional training in the private sector, we are prepared to co-operate. Quebec's example shows that we are willing to help young people, but the provinces must do their share.

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[English]

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE****NATURE OF PROGRAM—NEEDS OF THE UNEMPLOYED**

**Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Last week the Leader of the Opposition, in commenting on unemployment insurance, said the following:

It defies common sense to spend billions and billions and billions of dollars to keep men and women idle—

That reflected the Tory philosophy that it is unemployment insurance that keeps people unemployed rather than the state of the economy. I recognize that the Prime Minister is not responsible for the words of the Leader of the Opposition.

I would also like to quote the Minister of Employment and Immigration who said that his proposal for changing unemployment insurance would be as follows:

It would mean people drawing unemployment insurance would be required to use their unemployment insurance payments as a means of participating in training and retraining programs.

Will the Prime Minister agree that those who are unemployed are not so unemployed because they love that prospect, or because of an insurance program from which they are now benefiting, but are unemployed because of the state of the economy? Will the Prime Minister also agree that many who draw unemployment insurance need that money to provide

adequate food and shelter. They do not have extra money for retraining programs at this time.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member has asked a rhetorical question and made a very valid point. I will make sure that it is conveyed to the Leader of the Opposition so that he will take heed of the Hon. Member's suggestion.

**MINISTER'S RETRAINING PROPOSAL**

**Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, perhaps for the remainder of this week the Prime Minister could also convey that message to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. The problem with the proposal made by the Minister is that many young people, women, and native people do not qualify for unemployment insurance at the present time. If we are going to make training and retraining a part of the UI package, many of those people will find it even more difficult to get into community colleges and other training programs. Will the Prime Minister agree that it would be much better if those programs were adequately funded instead of requiring people when they are unemployed to use their UI money, which is meant to cover their legitimate costs, such as food, shelter and other normal expenses to maintain a home?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, it would be even better if there were a much lower rate of unemployment. In cases where the unemployment fund is used by the Minister of Employment and Immigration, under the provisions of the Act, it is done in consultation with the unions and the companies when it is decided to use some unemployment funds with governmental supplements in order to provide work-sharing, for instance. This is provided for under the Act. It is authorized by Parliament. In many cases it is wanted by the workers themselves. It is only in those cases that we proceed with it.

The Hon. Member is making a valid general point that an unemployment insurance scheme is an insurance scheme and the funds should be used essentially to provide an interim income to those who are unemployed through no fault of their own. In my first answer I supported that point, but I tell him that there are some ways in which unemployment funds can be used with the consent of the participants in the fund to provide jobs, for example in the work-sharing scheme.

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**EMPLOYMENT****RIDING ALLOCATION FORMULA FOR DISTRIBUTION OF JOB-CREATION FUNDS**

**Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance who will know that Conservatives create jobs. When we were the Government, jobs for young people went up by 7,000 a month. Under his Government, Liberals lose jobs; 5,500 a month on average since the Liberals again took over. That is the difference.