

*Oral Questions*

realistic understanding of the very great improvement that has taken place in the Canadian economy generally, and specifically in relation to the employment of young people over the past year and, indeed, over the last months.

**Mr. McGrath:** Mr. Speaker, I find that difficult to understand, as I am sure does the rest of the House.

## REQUEST THAT CAREER ACCESS PROGRAM BE EXPANDED

**Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is that there are still 1.3 million people unemployed. Last year unemployment went up from 11 per cent to 11.9 per cent. Those are the cold hard facts. Will the Minister at least tell the House that he is prepared to expand the only program that seems to have any effect at all in providing jobs for young people, that being the Career Access Program? Can he tell the House how many jobs have been created by that program?

**Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I am a little surprised because, as the Hon. Member would have known if he had paid much attention to the Speech from the Throne in December, and the comments which subsequently surrounded it, the Government has already made the decision in effect to double the funding of the Career Access Program in the next fiscal year.

## FUNDING OF JOB-CREATION PROGRAMS

**Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Mr. Speaker, I am talking about this fiscal year. The next fiscal year does not begin until April. In the Budget of June, 1982, there was a program called the Immediate Employment Stimulation Program, with a fund of \$150 million. That reappeared in the April Budget as the Special Employment Initiatives Program, with another \$150 million fund. On November 29 the Minister could not give us the criteria for this Program or how it is administered. We now know that this is a ministerial porkbarrel. Will the Minister, who is an honourable man, stop this porkbarreling and put that \$300 million into the Career Access Program so it can provide more jobs for our young people?

**Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, that program is not a porkbarrel program. When I met with the parliamentary committee the Hon. Member raised this matter and I told him that I would furnish him with the guidelines for the expenditure of those funds. I will be happy to do that. In fact I have already drafted a letter to him outlining what those are. The fact of the matter is that that program is a way of cutting through bureaucratic red tape. It is a fast track program to bring funds to bear for groups who need it in order to create employment in the Canadian economy, which is exactly what the Hon. Member says that he wants to see happen. He should be supporting that program, not attacking it.

● (1420)

## EMPLOYMENT OF FOREIGN NATIONALS IN UNIVERSITIES

**Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to continue with the same Minister on the issue of well qualified manpower. The Minister will know that Canadian universities are currently turning out three people with doctorates, for every university position available. In his capacity as Minister responsible for immigration, he will also know that well over one-quarter of those faculty positions go to foreign citizens. Can the Minister tell us why we have this oversupply of Canadians? We are still giving jobs to foreign citizens. What does the Government intend to do about it, if anything? We need jobs for well qualified Canadians.

**Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman is alluding to a problem which I think is indeed a very important one. It is a problem which most recently has been described in the Symons Page Report, which I have had a chance to look at but not read in entire detail.

I think it is true that having very large numbers of foreign teachers and professors in the Canadian university system is a disadvantage to the country. However, that problem is, to a considerable extent, a legacy of the past.

The hon. gentleman referred to the figure of 25 per cent, I believe, of professors and lecturers who are of foreign citizenship. However, if he looks at the recruitment over the past year, for instance, he will find that the figure of foreign entry is something closer to 10 per cent than 25 per cent. In other words, the problem which he is correctly describing, and which exists today, is one which has been created by the past to a considerable extent. We have brought forward immigration criteria in an attempt to respond to this problem, and are insisting that positions be well advertised in Canada before they are offered abroad.

Perhaps the most succinct answer I can make to his question is that I believe there is indeed a serious social problem here. We have taken some steps to respond to it. I want to examine the Symons Page Report in detail to see if there are more useful ideas which we can derive from its recommendations.

**Mr. Hawkes:** I have read the report. There are four specific ideas in that report to which I would like a reaction, because I agree with the Minister that it is a serious problem.

## SYMONS PAGE REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

**Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West):** Mr. Speaker, the authors of the Symons Page Report are recommending a consultative committee to advise the Minister, an academic committee. They are recommending a review body, and that the universities establish university-wide appointments review committees, which the Minister could require be done. They are also recommending the establishment once again of a Canadian Centre for Educational Statistics. Could the Minister assure