

useful for him to talk to his Leader and his seatmate from St. John's.

REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT DISCLOSE PLANS

Mr. Gerry St. Germain (Mission-Port Moody): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. The unemployment situation in Canada obviously remains in a crisis state. Many people in Mission-Port Moody, like many other British Columbians, and Canadians, have lost their jobs, their homes and their cars. More important, Madam Speaker, they have lost their dignity, and families are suffering.

Can the Minister tell the House exactly what long-range plans the Government has to end unemployment and to put Canadians back to work so that they may regain their dignity, along with their families and their communities?

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, I should like to take this opportunity to welcome the Hon. Member and say how pleased I am that he has addressed his first question in the House to me. I hope he will address many more questions to me and also many which are as perspicacious as the one he has just posed.

As I indicated to the House yesterday, in this year we are directing something like \$1.5 billion to job-creation efforts. I do not believe, and I hope he does not believe, that there is one simple, single, precise response which will create jobs. We are trying to create them with a whole variety of programs.

I described to the House yesterday how the variety of programs used in the past have been brought together and reinforced. I suggest the Hon. Member look at the material that was delivered to his office in that regard. If there is something specific he would like to do in the short term and immediately, it should be to intervene with the Government of British Columbia to re-establish some rather important programs like the Employment Bridging Assistance Program. These were very useful in creating jobs in British Columbia but unfortunately, in my view, the provincial Government has withdrawn from them.

● (1440)

Mr. St. Germain: Madam Speaker, I did receive the information on the Canada Works Program. It should create ten or 20 jobs in my riding.

NEED FOR LONG-TERM JOBS

Mr. Gerry St. Germain (Mission-Port Moody): With respect to my supplementary question, the people of my riding and the people of Canada want to know, Madam Speaker, when exactly—and I repeat—when exactly will the Minister truly create something long term? These are band-aid programs, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Oral Questions

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, these are not band-aid programs. I do not call 328,000 jobs a band-aid. They are not a mere handful of jobs. We have not waited for programs. We have, over the past year, acted, and it would be very much in the interests of the hon. gentleman's own constituents if he could persuade his colleagues on that side of the House to allow the Crow rate legislation to proceed and pass in this House—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Roberts:—because that legislation will create thousands and thousands of jobs in British Columbia.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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EDUCATION

ACCESSIBILITY TO POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

Miss Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. As the Minister knows, the situation of Canadian youth has reached crisis proportions. Jobs are not there, and now entry to post-secondary educational institutions is being denied thousands upon thousands of qualified students everywhere in the country. Will the Minister, and through him, the Government, urgently consider the establishment, with the provinces, of a joint emergency fund to meet this national crisis in post-secondary education so that the goal of accessibility is not totally eroded?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member no doubt knows, the Federal Government is contributing very, very large amounts to post-secondary education. As a matter of fact the average is between 55 per cent and 60 per cent of the cost of post-secondary education, while the provincial governments are contributing only about 30 per cent to the cost of post-secondary education. It would seem to me that, if additional funds are required in that regard, the provincial governments should be expected to do their share and carry their share a lot more than they have in the past.

I have indicated that in spite of our large deficit we would continue this year and next year to increase our contribution to post-secondary education by 6 per cent and by 5 per cent. As the Hon. Member knows, there are several Provinces across the country which have frozen their contribution, their total contribution to the post-secondary education, or have increased it very, very little. I am pleased that the Hon. Member is as concerned as I am about the situation of youth unemployment and youth education and training. I would hope that her urging in that regard, and my own support of her recommendations, is going to be heard by provincial governments.