

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

Mr. James Hugh Faulkner (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, on April 5 the hon. member raised a question about criteria and it is precisely that with which I shall deal tonight. The criteria applying to the summer youth program have been carefully planned in order to achieve the greatest student participation at all levels.

Student participation means several things: first, that the greatest number of students should be employed in meaningful and worth-while projects both to the students and the communities they wish to serve. This implies that the cost for each job is limited, but in no way to the point of creating cheap labour. Second, large segments of the population should benefit from these projects and regional disparities should be taken into account. Third, young people have to be involved in planning and carrying out projects. This aspect is particularly important to show the vigour, the perseverance and the capability of young people to carry out and terminate what they have started, thus demonstrating the responsible manner in which young people can identify problems which face their community and their ability to respond to them in a satisfactory manner.

Fourth, projects should reflect creativity by introducing new services, programs and activities. In this respect the

extension of already existing programs, whether federal, provincial or municipal, are not to be accepted: first, because there is the danger that the students might not be sufficiently involved in the process-making and because this program was never designed to be involved in transfer of funds from one government level to another.

Fifth, funds will not be allocated to purely leisure projects, for which reasons are obvious. Sixth, funds will not be allocated to organizations whose only goals are to make profit, since this program is designed to avoid competition with the private sector and is primarily set up for social and not financial benefit.

All in all, the criteria for this program were set up to answer the needs, aspirations and goals of a young generation that threatens to drop out if governments do not make an effort to work with them on their own terms. For the first time a government is financing creativity, not enclosing it within its own structures but permitting it to be as it is—in other words, providing youth with a genuine role in society.

Motion agreed and the House adjourned at 10.32 p.m.