

*The Budget—Mr. Atkey*

[Translation]

**Mr. Olivier:** Mr. Speaker, would the hon. minister accept a question?

**Mr. Fox:** I rise on a point of order!

**Mr. Olivier:** I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. McCain):** The hon. member for Longueuil on a point of order.

**Mr. Olivier:** Mr. Speaker, could I ask a question of the hon. minister?

[English]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. McCain):** The hon. member can put a question only with the unanimous consent of the House, since the minister's time has expired. Is there such consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

[Translation]

**Mr. Olivier:** Could the minister tell me the full amount that he has set aside for job creation and the total number of jobs that he has created?

● (1730)

[English]

**Mr. Atkey:** Mr. Speaker, the program which was announced today is largely a program for the fiscal year 1980-81. The targets I gave you for the creation of jobs was some 105,000 jobs for young people, and an additional 15,000 jobs for persons who are not young persons but nevertheless handicapped in the total sense of having severe difficulties in obtaining continuing employment. On top of that there will be training positions for some 120,000 young people and many more training positions for older Canadians, the total number of which is not fully clear. On top of that—and I am repeating the contents of my speech—there will be 14,000 persons in the national youth service program. The total cost of our job-creation program is, in dollar terms, exactly the same amount of money provided by the previous government. I can assure the hon. member that for the same dollars we will be getting twice the value.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Hogan:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I should like to ask the minister a brief question. Did he say that the Department of Employment and Immigration is now going to take over the small craft and harbours program entirely, or it is going to play the role that it played traditionally of supplementing the job that was done for the Department of Fisheries?

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. McCain):** Order, please. I should like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that this is not the question period and that this question, like the former

[Mr. Atkey.]

one, can only be asked with the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Atkey:** Mr. Speaker, may I repeat this again. In the eastern alternatives employment program referred to by my colleague, the Minister of Finance, in the budget debate the other night, there is a sum of \$50 million which has not been allocated in any specific way but which will include a number of projects, such as small craft and harbours. Those projects need not necessarily be funded directly by my department, but one of the principal criteria for their funding is that they be labour intensive.

**Hon. Francis Fox (Blainville-Deux-Montagnes):** Mr. Speaker, it is not every day that I have the pleasure of speaking following the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Atkey). In the past few weeks it seemed that I had always preceded him. But in this way I may in some way have the last word.

While it is a pleasure to be following him, it is also a major source of disappointment for me to have to speak in this budget debate following the type of announcements that the minister has just made. We have been waiting for a long time for the minister's employment strategy. In fact we have been waiting since June 4 when he was appointed. Since that time we have been treated to a number of speeches and, in spite of our repeated questioning of him in front of parliamentary committees, we have obtained no information from him. It seems that he has a lot more confidence in the various service clubs to which he speaks across the country, because what he told us today he revealed in great part to most of the service clubs.

We on this side of the House would have much appreciated it if the minister had had the courtesy to send us advance copies of his speech so that we could have had a look at it before he unveiled it in the House, and analysed it in greater detail. I will respond to some parts of the minister's speech, and other parts of it I will leave to my colleague, the critic for women's employment, the hon. member for York South-Weston (Mrs. Appolloni).

First of all, I would like to look, before considering the employment program which the minister put forward before the House, at the economic setting in which we are acting. The minister's department has a very special responsibility within the Government of Canada, one of stimulating employment in times when the macro-economic policies of the government are perhaps not working. If there is one thing that comes out clearly from the budget, it is that the macro-economic policies of the government are not working and they more than offset the type of job-creating opportunities that the minister brought forth tonight. In that sense I want to extend my sympathy to him, because he knows full well that in spite of the \$7 million he will be spending in the job-creation field, he knows his colleague, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Crosbie), will destroy