

innovative programs to assist young people, not next summer or the summer after but this summer.

There are young people who live in small communities of 300 or 400 people, such as South Bar or on a reserve which is a little bit bigger. Surely there is an obligation upon legislators of the national Parliament to set an example and to provide some semblance of hope to these young people.

Mr. Speaker, you are indicating that I have one or two moments left. Let me say, through you, to the members opposite, it is not tough medicine to say to young people: "Do it on your own", when in point of fact, there are no opportunities out there in the public sector or the private sector.

Surely the tough medicine for a government to bear at this difficult economic and political time in our country is to say: "Hey, let us bite the bullet here. Let us provide some hope. Let us provide the necessary funding. Let us assist young people across this country. Let us mobilize that talent, that spirit." I suggest to hon. members opposite that this will add greatly to the *esprit de corps* that we need in this country. More important, it will provide young people with a sense of hope, dignity and fairness to know that the Government of Canada, their national legislators do, in fact, care about them.

Hon. John McDermid (Minister of State (Finance and Privatization)): Mr. Speaker, I just have a brief question to my colleague.

As he knows, the funding was increased, albeit a small amount. I do not think any of us are happy. We would all like to have more funding in our ridings to assure young people of more jobs. Under the economic circumstances, an increase of some \$3 million was all that was able to be funded.

He is suggesting additional funding. Could he tell us what he is suggesting as an amount of increase in the budget this year? Where might he suggest it be taken from?

Mr. Dingwall: Mr. Speaker, the hon. minister has asked a specific question in terms of the amount. He has asked a specific question in terms of where the money might come from.

I suggest that the minister might wish to be creative in terms of the levers he has at his disposal and to initiate

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the assistance of provincial governments. Perhaps, one avenue is to provide the incentive for provincial governments also to share. I do not believe it is the sole responsibility of the national government. But if provincial governments had some incentive to ignite additional funding, such as in the example set by the federal government, much of what I am referring to, particularly at this time, could be forthcoming. It may be a 50 per cent increase and 50 per cent by the provinces.

The hon. member has heard comments from our critic responsible for youth in terms of restoring the levels of the past. The hon. minister must keep in mind that the conditions are quite different from what they were in 1986, 1987 and 1988, when the economy was much stronger. I am sure the minister would understand it would only be prudent and wise that when the economy is down, additional funding be made available for students for that particular year.

In terms of where the money can come from, the minister is probably much better aware than most members on this side of the floor as to where measures can be restrained in terms of their expenditure. I think, of course, of financing which goes out to the tune of billions of dollars on an annual basis to the private sector for grants and various subsidies. I am not suggesting that we cut them off completely.

Mr. McDermid: Whose riding gets the bulk of it?

Mr. Dingwall: The minister has made a point. Let me finish. I would like to debate that with the minister. The fact of the matter is that there are funds within the system, the present system, that the minister could re-allocate to this particular program in order to assist students.

The minister made a disparaging remark when he alluded to which riding gets all of those subsidies now under the present programs. There is no question that some of those subsidies for private sectors have accrued in my particular constituency. I do not doubt that and I do not dispute that.

An hon. member: Why should you?

Mr. Dingwall: But the hon. minister cannot sit there like a Cheshire cat and say to members on this side of the House: "No, no subsidies have come to my riding." That would be a denial of history. It would be a denial of Sir John A. Macdonald's policy as it relates to the protection