

Mr. Trudeau: When the Leader of the Opposition says that he would not charge \$800 a day, I can understand this. He certainly is not worth that.

APRIL ANNOUNCEMENT

Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. In April of this year the Minister's predecessor announced that over \$1 billion would be spent in 1983-84 on employment programs for youth. In the Speech from the Throne yesterday—

● (1425)

An Hon. Member: I can't hear you.

Mr. McGrath: You can hear me all right. The fact is the truth hurts.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McGrath: Yesterday in the Speech from the Throne we heard that the Government would be using reallocated and new resources on a \$1 billion Youth Opportunity Fund to assist young Canadians in acquiring new skills and in finding jobs in the private, voluntary and public sectors. Is the \$1 billion Youth Opportunity Fund not the same program that was announced in April by the Minister's predecessor? If not, where is the new initiative? Where is the new money?

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, no, the answer is that it is not the same program. There is no discrepancy in the figures as has been alleged by opposition Members, other than perhaps in their own minds.

Four hundred million dollars of new funds has been added to create jobs generally. Of that \$400 million of new funds something like \$266 million is new funds going toward job creation and training for young people, to be added to existing programs to bring those funds to an amount well over \$1 billion. The Hon. Member, in referring to the announcement made by my predecessor last April and comparing it to these figures, is comparing two different things. What he is comparing—it may be difficult for him to understand—is actual expenditures for 1983-1984 to projected expenditures for 1984-1985. It is in nature of the process that projected expenditures are usually built upon as the year goes by.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Roberts: I assume, Mr. Speaker, that Hon. Members want an accurate explanation. If the Hon. Member were to compare the proposed expenditures for 1984-1985, which constitute the over \$1 billion fund, to the proposed expenditures for 1983-1984, he would find that those proposed expenditures are very, very considerably different now from those which were projected in December a year ago. There has been a very substantial increase in the foundation of government spending

toward job creation generally, and to job creation for young people in particular.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, I will have to get an explanation of that ballyhoo from the Hon. Member for York West. Quite frankly, I do not believe anybody understands what the Minister is saying, including him.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

CAREER ACCESS PROGRAM

Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, let me get back to another area. Last night on television the Minister talked about the new program for young people creating 125,000 new jobs. That figure dropped 35,000 this morning to 90,000 new jobs.

We have the Career Access Program which was announced last April. This program was for \$90 million to create 30,000 jobs, and did not get started until September. Now that is to be doubled to \$200 million. Perhaps the Minister will explain how many jobs were created under the old Career Access Program—\$90 million in expenditures—and how many jobs the Minister anticipates will be created under the new Career Access Program. Let us hear from the Minister on that account. It is a very simple question, and even the Minister should understand that.

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I would like to put the hon. gentleman both out of his misery and out of his ignorance. If he wants to refer to projected expenditures a year ago, the amount is something like \$794 million. If he wants to compare the expenditures we are now forecasting, which are the equivalent of that \$794 million last year, he will find the figure is well over \$1 billion.

Mr. McGrath: It is the same fiscal year. It is not over yet.

Mr. Roberts: That is the explanation which the Hon. Member pretends not to understand. But the funding that we announced yesterday is an extraordinarily significant increase devoted to job creation. If he wants to ask that the impact is on youth employment of the measures that we placed before the House yesterday, it is that there will be an increase of between 85,000 and 90,000 young people participating in jobs next year as a result of those programs, which programs would not take place had it not been for the commitments we made yesterday.

NUMBER OF JOBS CREATED

Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, can the Minister tell us how much money has been spent to date on the Career Access Program, and how many jobs have been created?

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the expenditure, going by memory, so far