

[Translation]

I would like to congratulate the new Minister for his excellent speech which reflects a philosophy that I wholeheartedly support.

[English]

What I heard the Minister saying is consistent with a report which a special parliamentary committee presented to this Chamber in the fall of 1981. That committee was chaired by members of the previous Government and it was completely ignored by their Cabinet. I heard the Minister saying that there will be an intensification of things which are already started, that there will indeed be an increase in local decision-making, that the Government views communities of the country as having local labour markets with local opportunities for development of jobs, that we are composed of communities with somewhat different educational backgrounds and that communities will be able to decide how best to spend federal money so that people who live in those communities can acquire the skills which will lead to placement in jobs within their home communities. Is it a fair summary to say that the over-all approach of the Government is local control of decision-making in order that local people can attain skills relevant to where they live and would like to work?

Mr. Bouchard: Mr. Speaker, I would like to re-emphasize what the Member said. Jobs Strategy would like essentially to deal with the employment problems we had until 1984. I know that my colleagues on the other side are aware that the old job programs were a failure. We need only look at the figures from 1984.

The issue of training must be joined with the issue of jobs. The people of Canada are becoming increasingly more aware that we cannot give a strong thrust to job-creation programs and employment if we do not join this with training. This is the concern we have in all six streams of job creation. Job development, job entry and so on must always be mixed with training for the benefit of the future of the country. Young people are getting training in our universities in order to get jobs in the future. Our older workers have to be moved out of the industries because they do not have the necessary skills to get further.

In my speech I committed myself, and I think I can say I committed the entire Government, to continuing to deal with the question of training. My colleague speaks about New Brunswick. I am deeply aware of the problems that we have in the Atlantic provinces. The Prime Minister made his speech on Friday. The Hon. Member said that we did not have specific programs but I think the Speech from the Throne is not the place to give specific programs. It is the place to give the philosophy of the Government. The Hon. Member should be very pleased because he did not see such things before 1984.

The Address—Mr. Bouchard

● (1140)

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier (Mr. Gauthier).

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, first, I would like to congratulate the Minister on his appointment and say that we hope that we can continue to be able to work closely with him, as we did when he was Secretary of State.

He mentioned the fact that unemployment affects certain regions in Canada more than others. I would like to point out, for instance, that our capital, Ottawa, had an unemployment rate of 9.2 per cent last July. There are 7,000 more unemployed in the national capital than there were in 1984 when the Progressive Conservative Government came to power. Of these, 35 to 40 per cent are young people who are unable to find work. Moreover, 20 per cent of the families in Ottawa—Vanier are single parent families with dependent children, and most of these families, or 95 per cent, are headed by women.

I would like to know what the Minister can tell us about this. First, what can he tell my constituents, such as a woman with two children who has no job and who needs training and development programs. Can he give her some encouragement? Would he tell her today: Madam, this Government will see to it that programs are made available at Algonquin College or elsewhere to give you retraining and enable you to find work and earn a decent living?

As for young people, many of my constituents go to Ottawa University, Carleton University or Algonquin College. There are 21,000 students in my riding. What can you tell them about their careers? Can they expect this Government to be sensitive to their needs and to implement real job-creation and training programs which will give them an opportunity to earn a decent living?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Hon. Minister may give a very brief reply.

Mr. Bouchard: In my speech this morning, Mr. Speaker, I tried to address this concern. I think that the Ottawa region, for the very specific reasons you referred to, is faced with the same problem as a great many other regions in this country. This morning, I made every effort in my speech not to imply that we had found solutions to all problems, including those experienced by young people coming out of the university, not to mention those of women who are trying to return to the labour force and for whom it is a fundamental desire. However, as you know, the current situation is becoming increasingly more difficult. A reference was made to New Brunswick and Newfoundland, which does not lift the obligation to solve your problem, but first of all, we must try to help the areas where unemployment rates are as high as 15 or 20 per cent and which would be faced with a very difficult situation indeed if the Government failed to act quickly and effectively.