

Employment

● (1750)

If we look at an assessment of the Challenge '85 program prepared by the Department of Employment and Immigration, we find for instance that only 33 per cent of the jobs giving work experience in the field of study of young people were found in the private sector. Generally, the non-profit sector has had more success in creating new jobs than the private sector.

Analysis of the program also confirms that many jobs, especially in the private sector, would have been created in any case, even without the support of Government subsidies.

Madam Speaker, although my hon. friend from Edmonton stated that many programs were being offered to non-profit agencies, 300 agencies in this country have joined together to form a coalition, and they have indicated they were being affected by most of the cutbacks in the federal Challenge '86 program. This program is of course concerned with providing jobs for young people.

In fact, although it had a budget of \$215 million in 1985, the Challenge program's budget for this year is \$180 million. To everyone's surprise, it was the non-profit sector that absorbed most of the cutbacks, over 95 per cent, although that sector was given the best evaluation last year. And the private sector, which did not do as well as expected in the summer program last year, suffered only minor cutbacks. If we put this in percentages, about 40 per cent of Canada's non-profit organizations have been affected by this measure.

I think that although my hon. friend was enthusiastic about the Government's decision to promote programs that would benefit all Canadians, the fact remains that at least 300 agencies have protested these cutbacks.

When all is said and done, there were concrete results in British Columbia: out of 20 Vancouver organizations sponsoring youth summer camps, eight had to abandon their projects, two kept operating with budget cuts of 50-odd per cent, and one with budget cuts of about 20 per cent. This prompted the Little Mountain Neighborhood House executive director to say that indeed this Government is inspired by a philosophical trend whereby social services have much less priority, and ever larger funds are given to the private sector rather than to non-profit organizations.

Madam Speaker, I should point out as well that this year 65 per cent of the Challenge '86 budget was allotted to the public sector and non-profit organizations in British Columbia. Last year, the proportion was up to 75 per cent. The federal Government made job creation by the private sector one of its priorities, even though, as I said, the evaluation of the program Challenge '85 that was done by the Department of Employment and Immigration showed that the non-profit sector was generating more jobs than the private sector.

Closer to us, about a hundred groups have protested against the cuts in Challenge '86, pointing out that last summer's \$34 million cutbacks deprived nearly 115,000 Canadians of the services they had enjoyed in previous years. Summer camps for

underprivileged young people and assistance programs for senior citizens especially were affected.

Finally, before I conclude I would like to bring to your attention, Mr. Speaker, certain figures which reach beyond the statistics that may be used regularly by Government Members to justify or show a measure of job creations, because we note from year to year that programs or budgets allotted by the Government keep decreasing. Taking for instance the budget for Challenge '86, there were \$180 million for job creation, of which \$127 million went to the major components Summer Employment and Job Experience. The Challenge '85 budget included \$205 million for job creation, \$163 million of which were used for Summer Employment and Job Experience. This means there was a \$25-million cutback for 1985-86.

Under Challenge '85, non-profit groups produced twice as many jobs throughout Canada as the private sector. And the distribution of the 29,170 jobs, jobs generated in Quebec under Challenge '85 was: 50 per cent with the non-profit groups, 40 per cent with the private sector, and 10 per cent with the municipalities.

All this, Madam Speaker, goes to show that this Government's commitment to reducing the reliance on non-profitable organizations as compared with previous years is a policy which is very bad in itself and which condemns the federal Government's current action. I therefore support the proposal put forward by my colleague for Montreal—Sainte-Marie, which is to go ahead with the best projects submitted, whether they come from non-profit or profit groups, provided they give an opportunity to young people in a given region to work and acquire job experience.

Mr. Clément M. Côté (Lac-Saint-Jean): Madam Speaker, I just could not begin my remarks the way the Hon. Member for Saint-Maurice (Mr. Grondin) did and say that I will try to give more weight: you will understand that it would be difficult for me to give more weight, but I will try to set the record straight, Madam Speaker.

On the one hand, the Hon. Member for Saint-Maurice (Mr. Grondin) stated that in the Greater Toronto area, under Challenge '86, more money had been given to the private sector than to non-profit organizations. Well, I hope that the Hon. Member can use a pencil to jot down a few figures. In the Greater Toronto area, some \$6,195,672 were given to the private sector, compared with \$9,829,757 to non-profit organizations.

I should like to add something to what the Hon. Member for Yorkton—Melville (Mr. Nystrom) said concerning job creation for women. Madam Speaker, may I say that compared with the former program, there has been an increase from 36 per cent to 45 per cent in the number of jobs for women.

The objective sought by the Hon. Member for Montreal—Sainte Marie is quite commendable, that is for the Canadian Government to give more to non-profit organizations and to