

*Supply*

Does the Hon. Member think this is the proper and fair way to conduct a student employment or summer employment program in which there is brief time available to apply for the job, where the employment period is short, to be caught up in that kind of bureaucracy, not being able to see what jobs are there, make direct application to the employer, and not have to go through some bureaucratic maze in order to have an opportunity to be employed for these very important summer months?

**Mr. Masters:** Mr. Speaker, I consider that an excellent question. I would not argue against the problems of bureaucracy and, why all of us keep coming back, wanting to do more through the private sector. The thinking in that instance might be that there is another process to be followed with regard to Government funded jobs so that there is a more equal opportunity for more people to have access to them.

I will just take a moment to respond to the Hon. Member. To respond to the Hon. Member, I would remind him that the debates are being monitored and I am sure that that is one area which should certainly be reviewed in a way that will possibly cut down on what I agree is a bureaucratic process which keeps the job seekers away from the job opportunities for a longer period of time than necessary. I believe that that is what the Hon. Member has said.

● (1640)

I have spoken of parochialism and I do not wish to be guilty of it myself, but it is also interesting to note that in my constituency, at least one of the local radio stations and perhaps more are co-operating with the Student Employment Centre by advertising to have jobs registered with the group as well as job opportunities. That program seems to be working very well and there has been a very strong response to it from the business community which has recognized the necessity for the program and has recognized that it does help businessmen find the employees that are required for their enterprises.

Returning to the Hon. Member's question, I think that that is a sign that there really is the room and the necessity for dialogue. I think the Hon. Member has made a good point and I would hope that the situation would be thoroughly examined.

**Mr. Crosby:** Mr. Speaker, I will content myself with the hope that the Hon. Member will use his good offices to pass this message on to the authorities responsible so that they may rectify this serious complaint. I noticed that the Minister is present in the House of Commons and she as well may take this into consideration.

The excuse given for not posting these government-funded jobs was that there were restrictions with respect to them. The first restriction was that the applicant had to live within the federal constituency for which the job was intended and the second was that there might be special restrictions. I do not think that that is any reason for not posting the jobs. I know that in my own area, there is no such requirement of residency in a special federal constituency. Some people are perhaps a

little suspicious that there may be something going on behind the scenes by way of pointing certain people in certain directions in order to obtain this employment. If the jobs were posted for everyone to see, we would be more assured of fairness.

I would like to make one further comment and ask another question of the Hon. Member with respect to a remark he made during the course of his speech. He said that we all want to maximize the efforts of Canadians to create more employment. I think that is a goal which we all desire devoutly. I would like to point out to the Hon. Member that independent agencies like the Conference Board of Canada as well as the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) have said in their economic predictions for the future that unemployment will continue at its current high rates for the next year or two and even longer. There is no indication that the economy will improve to the extent that we can reduce the unemployment rate to a figure less than 10 per cent or 11 per cent.

At the same time as this was being said, the Hon. Member's colleague, the Minister of Justice (Mr. MacGuigan), said in a speech which he made in the Province of British Columbia recently that full employment is possible and that if he became the leader of the Party, he would reduce unemployment dramatically over the next five years and reduce it back to its previous levels of 3 per cent or 4 per cent. Because the Hon. Member has access to information that is not available to Members of the Opposition, I would like to ask him if he knows how the Minister of Justice will reduce the unemployment rate in Canada if he becomes the leader of the Party.

Surely the Minister does not need to wait until he is the leader of the Party to implement a plan he may have to eliminate unemployment in Canada or reduce it to the level of 2 per cent or 3 per cent from its current level of 11 per cent. Surely he should share that plan not only with his colleagues in the Liberal Party but with his colleagues in Parliament. Let us get to work on the war on unemployment.

The Minister of Justice said in his speech that he did not accept the forecast of a 10 per cent unemployment rate for years to come and that he knows how to reduce that figure so that the unemployment rate between 1985 and 1988 will on average be less than the 9 per cent predicted by the current Minister of Finance. Perhaps the Hon. Member would share his thoughts with us and tell us how his colleague, the Minister of Justice, will reduce the unemployment rate to below the levels predicted by his other colleague, the Minister of Finance.

Perhaps the Hon. Member may simply say that there is no such plan, that we are stuck with the unemployment rates that were predicted by the Minister of Finance and that there is nothing that can be done about it. If that is the attitude of the Government with respect to unemployment and if the Government does not agree with the Minister of Justice who says that we can wage a war on unemployment and reduce it very dramatically, then I think the Government should quit and let someone else take over who will try to reduce unemployment.