

The Address—Miss MacDonald

Mr. Clifford:—the source of most unemployment, which is at the secondary school level can the Minister clarify what she is going to do to keep young people in school—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Order please. The Hon. Member for Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands (Mr. Manly) is rising on a point of order.

Mr. Manly: Mr. Speaker, it is understood that the ten-minute period for questions is usually reserved for Opposition Parties, and if Opposition Members do not have questions, then I think it is legitimate for Members of the Party to which the Member who has spoken belongs to ask questions. I would think the other two Parties should have their chance first.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The Hon. Member's point of order is not well founded. Questions and comments are permitted for every Member in the House. The Hon. Member for London-Middlesex has the floor.

• (1550)

Mr. Clifford: Mr. Speaker, I think I actually completed my question to the Minister. However, in summary, could she elaborate on whether there are any plans in these programs to react to a source of unemployment, that source being students at the secondary school level?

Miss MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for his question. It is an area which has a great many unemployed people in that age group. In announcing the Youth Training Option Program, I said that it was to be used as a pilot project. We will be looking at the results of that pilot project. However, that pilot project and the manner in which it was announced indicated that the other partners in a youth training plan had previously been left out. I am talking about the provinces which must have a direct input into education leading to further training and to jobs. Through the course of the next few months of intensive consultation, I will be discussing with the provinces, the educational system and the private sector a much larger plan as to how employment for those coming out of secondary school can be addressed and training plans initiated.

Mr. Nystrom: Mr. Speaker, I will try to speak loudly enough. First I congratulate the Minister on her appointment. I think she is the right kind of person in that Party to be in that portfolio, being a so-called red Tory.

An Hon. Member: Time will tell.

Mr. Nystrom: Time will tell. In any event, I appreciate the emphasis she placed upon retraining, mobility and so on. Arising out of that, I should like to ask her one or two questions about the statement of last week. In the blue book entitled "Expenditure and Program Review" we notice that there was a total cancellation of the General Industrial Training Program of some \$40 million. If the Minister is interested in retraining people, why would she cancel that program before any other program is put in its place? I could see it if

she was bringing in a new program that might be an improvement to the Liberal program; that is not difficult to do.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Nystrom: Why did the Minister cancel that program before there was something else in its place?

My second question concerns a reference in that book indicating that she is planning on doing something. Could the Minister illustrate what the new program will be?

My last question deals with mobility. The Minister has talked a lot about mobility. However, I notice in this book that she is cutting back on the mobility program by \$2.8 million. Why is she doing that in the age of high-tech and the information society when people have to be more mobile than ever before? It seems to me that the Minister is saying one thing and doing the other.

Miss MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, in addition to other recipes I will try to find a recipe for the Hon. Member's laryngitis. Perhaps I could help him out.

He dealt with two questions in particular, the first one being the General Industrial Training Program. That program had not lived up to its expectations. It was not providing the right kind of training. We have analysed it. We feel that in that sense there are many more effective ways to carry out retraining. However, I should like to tell the Hon. Member that any contracts or agreements presently in force will continue. There will be no cancellation for anyone who is in a training program at the present time.

With regard to the mobility program, we have made adjustments in that program. We have altered it to avoid cases where persons coming in from other communities could take jobs and where unemployed people in the community were bumped out of their place in the line. We have altered it so that those people who are unemployed in local communities will have the first chance at jobs.

Mr. Nystrom: What kind of program is the Minister planning to introduce in place of that \$40 million General Industrial Training Program which she cancelled? This is referred to in that blue book, but there are no details.

Miss MacDonald: There are no details. I want to assure the Hon. Member and all Hon. Members that in the process of consultation which begins later this month I have not set on the table the answers I want to see come out at the end of three months of consultation. We will be negotiating meaningfully with labour organizations, women's groups, the private sector and the provinces. I do not go to them saying: "These are the details of the programs I want to see at the end". I really want input and co-operation from all sectors.

Mr. Rossi: Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Minister on her very important appointment. In her speech she referred to youth unemployment as being a tragedy. I agree with her. Seeing that students can only work a few months per year during the summer holidays, could the Minister tell us whether