

Supply

Mr. Allmand: What is wrong with that? What is wrong is that many of those jobs were going ahead anyway and were not counted under the Government's program. If we count the jobs under the Government's program it is true, because in the past under Summer Canada we could only fund voluntary groups. So under the program, of course we are going to fund more jobs, but a lot of those jobs in the private sector went ahead anyway and I have definite proof of that from my own area.

Second, if it is in the private sector where the Hon. Member says the growth should be, I agree, but I always thought from listening to the rhetoric of Hon. Members opposite that the private sector should be private. The Prime Minister has said: "Let's not throw money at the problem". The private sector should operate privately. I thought they were big boys, operated in the free market economy and did not need the help of the Government. The scarce resources should go to the people who are not in the private economy. So I support the private economy, but I do not believe in doing it in this way, which is a distortion of the private economy and misuses public funds for the wrong reasons.

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Debate resumed. The Minister of State (Youth) (Mrs. Champagne).

Hon. Andrée Champagne (Minister of State (Youth)): Mr. Speaker, I welcome this opportunity to speak positively this afternoon on the subject of what the Government has accomplished in the way of job creation and youth projects, and especially Challenge 86.

[English]

I must say that the Hon. Member for Windsor—Walkerville (Mr. McCurdy) has really outdone himself today in drawing up the motion in front of us. It really seems as if he has emptied his mind completely in a jumble of buzz words which could easily lead one to believe that he is against jobs for youth rather than the opposite, so much so that he felt he had to correct his words himself. His colleague, the Hon. Member for Regina East (Mr. de Jong), also had to ask us not to believe that the Hon. Member for Windsor—Walkerville is against jobs.

The Hon. Member's motion jumps from pillar to post. He would do well to heed the words of David Lloyd George who said: "The most dangerous thing in the world is to leap a chasm in two jumps". The Hon. Member has taken two or three jumps in his motion today.

Nevertheless I will do my best to interpret what he appears to be saying, even though one's first impression is that he is condemning those youths who find jobs in the private sector. Is that what he is saying to our youths? Is private sector employment a dirty word now?

Mr. Orlikow: If it's not useful, yes.

Mrs. Champagne: Is summer employment for a larger number of students such a damnable goal?

Mr. Allmand: Call it subsidized private employment not private employment.

[Translation]

Mrs. Champagne: Mr. Speaker, in the first part of his motion, the Hon. Member condemns the Government for its management of job-creation programs, a criticism that is clearly unjustified if we look at the facts. Jobs have been created as never before since this Government was sworn in. Jobs have been created in every province, and as the Minister of State for Youth, I am especially pleased about the fact that since September 1984, nearly 100,000 jobs have been created for young people. I think this compares very favourably with the 285,000 jobs lost in this category under the Liberal Government, but that seems to fall on deaf ears.

[English]

In the month of April alone, 52,000 new jobs were created for youth while the unemployment rate declined almost a full percentage point. That is job creation. It is true that many of our youths, too many, are without jobs, but they have not given up hope. On the contrary, as the results of a research survey published in the January 7, 1986 issue of *Maclean's Magazine* revealed, today's youth are not disillusioned. They are not despairing or lacking direction. They have adopted a pragmatic attitude toward the challenges ahead of them.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, according to the survey, more than 80 per cent of respondents felt that reliance on personal initiative and skills was preferable to depending on the Government for everything, especially in the matter of jobs. Clearly, Opposition Members are not getting the message from our people. They are not taking the trouble to listen to them, and, as we saw again on the weekend, they are not around when youth speaks.

Last summer the Government proved that it had been listening to young people. The Innovations employment program we set up for them turned out to be an unqualified success. Challenge 85 made it possible to create over 100,000 jobs for Canadian students, close to 20 per cent more than the previous year. Not only were there more jobs, but they were also better jobs in the sense that from the employer's viewpoint they met the needs of local industries while giving students opportunities to work in fields related to their chosen career.

● (1630)

[English]

This summer the Government is continuing along this successful path with Challenge '86. We have also built on the lessons learned last year. Improvements to component programs have been made in response to the assessment and comments of business associations, student organizations, community groups and elected representatives at all levels. As