

Supply

Mr. Parent: The former secretary of state for external affairs says we should look at what went on. Let us recall some of the things that went on when she was a minister. Well, the people of Canada passed their judgment in the election of 1980. Hon. members opposite will have their chance again a few years down the road. I just hope they are all still around then.

Publications on government programs and services are available. They constitute the major part of publications requested by the public. There are publications on the nature of our political system and facts on Canada.

One way by which we are able to explain to the people to let them know what their government is doing is through exhibitions. Thirteen exhibits are travelling across Canada, mostly to communities which do not always have easy access to federal government departments.

Mr. McDermid: Brampton? You are crazy.

Mr. Parent: We offer information on various subjects including, first, programs and services available to Canadians through their federal government. This exhibit is entitled "Self-Service". A second exhibit is on the subject of energy and resources and is entitled "A Resource-full Country". A third exhibit is called "Canada's Far North".

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): You have a freak show called the Liberal caucus.

Mr. Parent: There is a freak show going on across the floor.

The following are statistics on the number of locations to which our exhibits travelled in Canada last year as well as the number of visitors. The exhibit entitled "Self-Service" was viewed by 105,000 visitors at 46 sites in British Columbia. There were 90,000 visitors in Alberta at 48 sites. In Saskatchewan there were 65,000 visitors at 57 sites. I could go on and on with these, but it should be noted that since the inception of our exhibits program in 1979 close to three million people have seen the exhibits. These are exhibits of our government, the Government of Canada. I see an hon. member nodding in agreement. Even today this is his government.

Mr. McDermid: That isn't what the editorial in the Brampton *Daily Times* says.

Mr. Parent: I cannot wait for whatever it is the hon. member has coming.

Our evaluations indicate that over 90 per cent of the visitors appreciate this type of doorstep information and find it very useful. That is contrary to the baying we hear from across the floor right now.

There are other matters to which we should address ourselves. Just last week there was a press release about the type of program we want to advertise and the type of program for which we as the Government of Canada are being criticized. I refer specifically to the expansion of the Katimavik program to

provide work opportunities for 1,650 young people across Canada. Are they opposed to young people getting jobs? Are they opposed to knowing where these jobs are?

• (1650)

Mr. McDermid: Tell that to the 600,000 young unemployed.

Mr. Parent: Conservative members on the other side laugh because we want to have jobs for our young people. They make fun of us because we want our young people to experience the good things in Canada. That is the way they look at it but we think it is important.

Miss MacDonald: What are you doing about it?

Mr. Parent: I will tell the hon. member what we are doing about it. The Government of Canada will provide \$17.6 million in 1982-83 for the program, which will now be funded on an ongoing basis for a period of five years rather than on a year to year basis. The number of work opportunities for youth in 1982-83 has been increased by 25 per cent over 1981 when there were 1,287 participants in the Katimavik program, involving 117 community projects across Canada.

Hon. members laugh at this type of program but we make known what is going on across Canada. I submit to you, Mr. Speaker, that if they were more interested in Canada they would not try to hide the good things we are doing in this country.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Ron Huntington (Capilano): Mr. Speaker, I am going to skip over the speech of the hon. member for Welland (Mr. Parent) now that the Secretary of State (Mr. Regan) is back in the House. I am glad he is here because something is happening in this chamber, particularly on the frontbenches of the Liberal government. Every time members there find themselves without answers they seem to move to a personal attack on an individual. In the House today the minister referred to the "young member for Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe". This young member, who informed us he was born in 1948, is my benchmate and I want to tell hon. members that he is a very bright and able young man.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Huntington: When he was minister of state for the Crown he was one of the most able we had. He did a magnificent job and is still doing a magnificent job in the area of information.

Mr. Chrétien: Minister of nothing.

Mr. Huntington: He has expressed our concern about advocacy advertising, which is an extremely serious matter to many people in this country. Even the bidding practices that have been historically built in to the federal government system are being totally ignored by the government.