

We have a considerable number of questions about the strategy's practical application. To say that we have a considerable number of questions is to pose the key question. It is very difficult to find out what is happening with the Canadian Jobs Strategy. The other day, we had occasion before the Committee on Labour, Employment and Immigration, to attempt to determine from the Assistant Deputy Minister the status of this program. We received a cloud of obfuscation, but among the things we did find out was that there was a freeze imposed during the 1985-86 fiscal year which, we are told, substantially paralysed the Department with respect to the processing and funding of grants, not only for those applications received last year but indeed those received this year. We were told that the funding freeze that has been imposed and at times even contested by various members of Government but confirmed all across the country has resulted in no funds being made available in the form of allocations to be used for successful programs to proceed. We were told that because there was no money to travel, there was no possible way to process any of these programs at least until the end of May. Even more seriously, there is a horrendous number of examples of urgently needed job training programs for which no money was made available.

At the committee meeting we were cited the example of British Columbia. We were informed that some \$15.8 million had been returned to the Treasury Board while \$260 million worth of grant applications were lying fallow. Of course, those grant applications represent a great many people including a significant number of young people who do not have jobs.

In order to further dramatize the effect of that kind of processing, one could refer to the situation in Windsor. The funding of a considerable number of applications received in the Windsor area in 1985 was delayed until this year. I am having difficulty finding the papers, Mr. Speaker. I hope you will bear with me.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

SUSPENSION OF PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS THURSDAY, MAY 29

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I will take this opportunity to inform the House that I have received written notice from the Hon. Member for Prince Albert (Mr. Hovdebo) that due to a prior commitment, he is unable to be present in the House on Thursday, May 29, 1986, to move his motion during the hour of private Members' business. Accordingly, I am directing the Table to drop that item of business to the bottom of the order of precedence. Since notice will thereby be removed, the hour for private Members' business will be suspended and, pursuant to Standing Order 39(2), the House will continue with the business before it prior to that hour until the ordinary hour of adjournment.

Supply

BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY, S.O. 82—JOB CREATION PROGRAMS—DIVERSION OF CHALLENGE '86 FUNDS TO PRIVATE SECTOR

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. McCurdy:

That this House condemns the Government for its management of job-creation programs and in particular for diverting Challenge '86 funds for youth employment from non-profit service organizations to the private sector, thus not only eliminating valuable social services but at the same time limiting new job creation and career experience for youth.

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Walkerville): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That was very kind of you.

There are two offices in the Windsor area, and out of the eastern office we found that \$318,000 worth of eventually approved allocations for 1985 were delayed until this year as a result of the freeze imposed last year. For this year only \$205,000 was made available. Similarly, out of the central office, \$446,000 in allocations for last year were delayed until this year while this year's applications will be funded only to the extent of \$260,000.

With respect to the broader issue, we find that in spite of the statements made by the Government about its commitment to the Canadian Jobs Strategy, it has in fact cut \$190,000 this year and, furthermore, will likely cut \$400 million to \$500 million next year. The matter looks even worse after reviewing what was done in 1985.

One must recall what the Minister said and what in fact was done up until March 13 of this year, almost the end of the fiscal year. The Minister promised that \$350 million would be allocated to the Job Entry Program but \$81 million was spent. The Job Development Program was supposed to receive \$700 million but approximately \$400 million was spent. On and on it goes. The Minister made promises that were only partially fulfilled at the cost of thousands of jobs and perhaps the futures of thousands of young people. There is a lack of commitment to the program the Government itself has adopted.

I would hasten to point out that I do admire some of the components of the Canadian Jobs Strategy, to the extent that they try to address the significant problems of employment, training and job-entry experienced by young people. The fact is that it is too limited and has not addressed itself to the manifold problems of ensuring complete access to all opportunity for all young people as would be provided by the Youth Prospects Program which we proposed in our task force report.

● (1530)

In particular, Challenge '86 has come under the magnifying glass. Of course it is a program which is supposed to fund summer jobs for students. At the very beginning there was a renege on the implied promise to young people when it was announced that \$30 million of the moneys which would have gone into that program had been shifted to the census activity to provide jobs that last, on the average, about five weeks or