

S.O. 21

I would like to draw the Hon. Member's attention to the fact that the problem is not the 2 cent increase. He may not be aware of the fact that there is a difference of 13 cents per litre between the price of gas in Quebec and Ontario. I have been looking at the problem for many years.

If his Government had bothered to read my proposals in this 725-page book . . . It is because of the previous Government's energy policies that Quebecers no longer understand the importance of the petrochemical industry for Quebec, and more specifically Montreal East. I am referring to the Montreal East refinery complex, which used to rank first in Canada and second internationally. Gas is so expensive in Quebec because of the rigidity of the Liberals' energy policy.

Soon we may have to form a buyers' consortium to get any of this precious stuff in Quebec. Where was the Member for Bourassa? Where were the Liberal Government and our Liberal friends, at the time?

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EMPLOYMENT

ABOLITION OF CERTAIN ESTABLISHED PROGRAMS TO GIVE JOBS TO YOUNG PEOPLE

Mr. Carlo Rossi (Bourassa): Mr. Speaker, I might say in passing that the Hon. Member for Duvernay (Mr. Della Noce) ought to do something constructive instead of beating his gums in the House. He should look after his riding instead of making empty statements in Ottawa.

Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Miss MacDonald) told the committee that the First Chance Program has been scrapped. Launched by our government, this program was designed to help youths find jobs and add experience to their *curriculum vitae*.

On the eve of the International Youth Year, we are rightfully concerned about Canadian youths, because not only will those looking for a first job be penalized by the Progressive Conservative government, but so will others seeking summer employment since the Progressive Conservatives have also axed the Summer Canada-Student Employment Program which enabled thousands of our students to work during the summer. They could thus pay their tuition fees and make their parents' financial burden that much lighter.

I suggest that all Canadians ought to denounce those ill-advised decisions of the Progressive Conservative government with respect to young Canadians, and to ask themselves just what the Minister of State for Youth (Mrs. Champagne) does besides standing by the door listening to her Cabinet colleagues argue among themselves.

[English]

EMPLOYMENT

FUNDING OF WINTER WORKS PROJECTS

Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay-Nipigon): Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon to call upon the Government to provide a large increase in the funds granted for Winter Works projects. Many of us were concerned about the announcement in September by the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Miss MacDonald) that only \$200 million was to be allocated for this winter's projects. Allotments of only \$100,000 for many ridings are clearly inadequate in the present circumstances of high unemployment. Grants of more funds for other ridings are just as inadequate when one recognizes that unemployment figures are underestimated because of the Government's refusal to use all of the information available to it.

The people of Canada have now been informed that the applications for Canada Works projects total \$1.2 billion, or six times the funds allocated for such job-creation projects. Clearly the supply of potential employees and of valuable projects is very large, and the new Government has equally clearly underestimated the need. It is imperative that the funding decision of September be reconsidered and the Progressive Conservative Government authorize a large increase in funds for Canada Works. If it does not, we shall all shortly be rejecting entirely worthy projects in our ridings across the country.

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[Translation]

EMPLOYMENT

REQUEST FOR PROGRAMS TO PROVIDE DURABLE AND PERMANENT JOBS

Mr. Gabriel Desjardins (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, the constituency of Témiscamingue which I represent in this House has one of the highest unemployment rates in Quebec according to the latest Statistics Canada figures, and ranks among the five hardest hit areas in Canada. The situation is especially dramatic for young people between 18 and 25, who in ever increasing numbers no longer trust the government to get their problems solved. This sad situation is mainly due to the nearsighted employment policies put forward by the previous government, which are largely responsible for destroying and depreciating work ethics among our young people. It was that kind of cheap political programs that helped unseat 58 Liberals in Quebec.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that this Government during its term of office will develop genuine employment programs that will prove to be lasting and permanent and will put Canadians back to work. Further, it is my wish that the Minister of Employment and Immigration will affect large sums of money to job creation where the unemployment rate is indeed a human tragedy.