

strictly stop-gap measures, but they look good to the public. They throw out a little money; they provide 12 jobs in the riding of Brampton-Georgetown, 14 jobs in Oakville and 10 jobs in Mississauga; and on it goes. However, they just do not provide meaningful employment, especially for young people.

We spent Friday going over applications for summer employment. There were 24 applications submitted in my constituency. I think we accepted 11 applications. Those were all we could accept because of the limited budget. Summer jobs were provided for 20 young people. The minister brags about how wonderful this program is and about what a great job it does for young people. I say that is nonsense. If we had a program which provided incentives to the private sector to hire young students for the summer, we would see many more employed and much more meaningful employment.

The Progressive Conservative goal was to create a climate which would encourage the private sector to have confidence in the government. That is very important. Employers are skeptical of government programs. They cannot face the paper work involved. Private industry and government must work to solve this problem, but for some reason the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Axworthy) does not trust the private sector. He wants to do everything through grants and special programs.

I can give an example of how the small business person is skeptical of the government. Recently a tender was sent out by the Minister of Supply and Services (Mr. Blais) to 52 small businesses in Canada. Only ten applications were returned to him. Twenty-eight tender calls were sent out in Ontario, but there were only four responses. Why? A couple of the small businessmen came to me and explained why; it was the paper work. They have to go through an absolutely horrendous amount of paper work to tender on jobs. That is ridiculous. My point is that the private sector does not trust the government. That is a shame, because it should and they should work together. However, they do not.

The minister continues to create little programs to throw a few dollars here and a few dollars there in the hope that that will solve the problem. Private employment incentive programs introduced by the Progressive Conservatives would have stimulated employment by allowing employers to claim \$80 weekly tax credits for providing jobs. They would have had the option of carrying unused portions of the credits forward. That policy addressed a couple of problems. It addressed itself to the employment of youth, which is very important. Youth is a very major target group. I would say almost half a million youths in this country are unemployed. The statistics say the number is a little smaller, but those are the ones we know of. The Progressive Conservative policy would have led us away from the trend, which the Liberals have established, toward creating a society in which young people are frustrated with the job market. What we are creating is a generation of unemployment insurance and welfare recipients. Young people—and they will tell the minister this—are fed up. They want continued employment, and they want futures they can plan.

Unemployment

What do we do in our apprenticeship programs? There are ten months of on-the-job training—hands on training—and then two months of classroom work. What do they do in the two months? They apply for unemployment insurance. The first thing we teach in an apprenticeship program is how to apply for unemployment insurance. That is a ridiculous approach. There must be better ways. As a matter of fact, I recommended one in this House to the minister of state responsible for student loans which would make far more sense than teaching young people to become dependent on unemployment insurance during an apprenticeship program. That is completely unacceptable.

We hear horror stories about how terrible our employment plans would have been and about how they would not have created any jobs. That, of course, is complete nonsense. Up to 105,000 young people could have been placed in meaningful jobs, 89,000 of them in the private sector. We proposed a youth employment secretariat, which would have zeroed in on youth employment programs, monitored existing programs and co-operated with the private sector and provincial governments to harmonize programs. Right now governments are going off in all directions. There are some good provincial programs, but the federal programs are not in any way tied in with what is happening in the provinces. That situation must change as well.

Our national youth service program would have placed 14,000 young people in Canada with the volunteer sector. They would have been working on federal, provincial or community projects. They would not have had to depend on unemployment insurance. That would have been a very important program.

● (1630)

According to the present minister, \$100 million would have been spent to create jobs for 49,000 students. That means that in my constituency 20 students will get jobs. Under our program we proposed to set aside the same amount of money, which is rather ironic. But it would have created 70,000 jobs, 21,000 more than is planned by the present government. That is poor planning. I grant that money is being spent on job creation, but it is not being spent wisely.

I wish to point out a couple of other matters the minister raised during his criticism of the use of statistics which I found rather interesting. He talked about how the federal government will increase its staff by only 1.5 per cent. I note with interest that the energy minister has been given permission to increase his staff by 507 bureaucrats this year, bringing the department staff to 4,269.

To let one department grow by 13 per cent and still maintain that 1.5 per cent level, other ministries must shrink. The health department will have to say goodbye to 354 employees this year and Indian affairs will lose 398 people this year. I ask the federal government, who cares for the people? So much for the social service field. Heaven knows there is a great deal of work to be done in Indian affairs. I am sure my colleague will