

Supply

monitor these retarded children during the summer. This year they can only hire five or six students, which means that many retarded children who would have gone to camp will have to stay in the centre of the city during the summer. The Department is taking that money and funding employment at La Ronde, an amusement park in Montreal. The same thing is happening in Vancouver. There is not much career relation to those jobs.

The Minister mentioned some good projects in my riding that are being funded, but let me mention some good projects that are not being funded as a result of her policy. These are projects that were funded year after year. SPARA Foundation helps young people who have problems with drug addiction. It is a very substantial program that has been supported by business and public sector people in Montreal for a long time. It will receive no money this year.

The DES Action Program has attempted to advise young women across the country that they might be subject to cancer as a result of the DES drug that their mothers took 25 years ago when they were pregnant with these young women. It is a group of people who have had cancer problems in their own families. They are trying to do something about it but their funds have been cut off. The Salvation Army residence for senior citizens will receive no money. Alliance Quebec, the action group for minority language rights in the west end of Montreal, will receive no money.

I believe the point of this debate is to ask the Government to consider restoring the budget we had last year, to make sure that those voluntary community groups that are providing essential services to the community continue to receive the same funding. Of course, if they have done a bad job they should be cut off, but there is no evidence of that.

I ask the Minister to consider a return to the use of constituency advisory groups. When we had the constituency advisory groups the choice of projects was in the hands of people from the community. These groups consisted of people from small business, from churches and from community organizations which would advise the Minister and the Member of Parliament. In my constituency we used to have 12 to 15 representatives who got together every year, considered all of the applications and voted on them secretly. They decided on the priorities and recommended what programs should be funded. This process worked very well most of the time. Furthermore, it is better for the Government and the Member of Parliament because it is a community based, grass roots process.

I ask the Minister to consider those three proposals. She should restore the funding, eliminate that criteria of 40 per cent or 35 per cent funding to the private sector, and consider bringing back the constituency advisory groups for next year.

Mr. Orlikow: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member described what was happening to many worth-while non-profit community projects in his constituency which were turned down for funding this year. It is very similar to what we are experiencing in virtually every city in Canada. While he was making his

inquiries with the Department officials in Montreal, was he able to see some of the private sector employment programs which have been funded and assess their value?

Let me give him an example of one such program in Winnipeg. It involves a grant of almost \$200,000 to train people in the retail field, 20 of whom will be working at the Hudson's Bay Company. First, there are no assurances from the Hudson's Bay Company that those people will find employment there once they are finished. Second, I have not been able to determine what these persons will do for that nearly \$200,000 that has been given. The money is not used to subsidize the wages, and Lord knows that the Hudson's Bay Company does not need any subsidy. As far as I can determine, the funds are not used for academic training. Has the Member experienced this situation and been able to determine any more about these private sector projects which look like real rip-offs to many of us?

Mr. Allmand: I have been able to get some information, but it has been very difficult. I have been able to get the information from Members of Parliament who have had to examine the list for their own ridings. I have been able to get the information from certain officials in the Department who are themselves upset with the program and have surreptitiously sent me information. However, when I have tried to get information directly from the Department it will not release it. It is a rather strange approach for a Party that said it stood for freedom of information and criticized the Liberals because they thought our Bill on freedom of information was too restrictive. Now we cannot get simple items like this from the Government.

Let me give the Member an example. I illustrated some of the projects in my constituency that were turned down. Let me tell the Hon. Member about some of the projects that were funded. The Minister will probably talk about some very good projects that have been funded; the fact is that if the Government is going to spend \$127 million some good projects will be funded. However, some should never have been funded. For instance, Zellers is probably a very good business organization—

Mr. Orlikow: Profitable too.

Mr. Allmand: Very profitable. It does not need subsidies from the Government in order to hire students for the summer. There is a very large pharmacy chain that is receiving money to hire students. I learned that these students are putting boxes on shelves, which confirms the comments in the evaluation report that was done by her own Department last year.

There are corner candy stores, ice-cream stores, corner supermarkets, bicycle stores and small landscaping firms that are being funded. No doubt, all of these are probably good businesses, but I do not know why they are being funded under this program. The Minister will probably say that I am against private business, but that is not true.