

government has no intention of forcing its partners' hands.

To determine the course we should take, we are relying heavily on the Labour Force Development Board, which just met for the first time. As you will remember, Mr. Speaker, the Board is an independent body administered entirely by the private sector, an organization rooted in the industrial, social and economic life of the country.

• (1150)

[English]

The board is guided by a firm desire to establish a training culture. It represents unprecedented co-operation between Employment and Immigration and labour market players, that is employers, workers, educators and social agencies. Because it is now more in tune than ever with social and economic realities, the government is confident of its ability to ensure, through its future action, that more Canadians will have the opportunity to contribute to and reap the full benefit of national prosperity.

As you can see, the options of the Challenge program and the stay in school initiative follow the same basic principles: give young people the skills they need to become productive members of the Canadian labour force. In so doing, we will restore Canada's productivity and competitiveness, two factors that are inextricably linked in this area of constant technological change, where competition means that only the strongest will survive.

We are listening to young people and those who are dedicated to helping them. Yes, we have taken strong and timely action. The government is working to give young Canadians the opportunity to flourish both personally and professionally.

Mr. Brian L. Gardiner (Prince George—Bulkley Valley): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the comments of the minister and the comments made by the member moving this particular motion.

I have a question I would like to put to the minister and it relates basically to the comments that he made

Supply

concerning the relationship between employment, education and training, something that I think is very important. The minister reminded us that it was mentioned in the throne speech and I gather it has been mentioned in a number of throne speeches under this government and the previous government. He also touched on the work that the federal government must do to work with the provinces to ensure that there are opportunities across the country for education and training.

It is an issue I have been pursuing in the House. I hope to have an opportunity to introduce a private member's bill tomorrow in regard to the transfer of funds through cash payments and tax points to the provinces in health areas and in post-secondary education.

The previous Secretary of State could not assure me or the House, in this very important field for training and education of young people, that in fact those funds were spent in that particular area.

Under the current legislation passed by the previous Liberal government, we evolved into this block funding formula. Many people allege in my province of B.C. that the Social Credit government paves highways with health and education money.

I would like to ask the minister if it is the government's view that this block funding approach should continue and, if so, can he assure the House that the funds allocated to the provinces, in particular on post-secondary education, a very important matter, are in fact spent on post-secondary education?

Mr. Cadieux: Mr. Speaker, I want to address the comments and, obviously, the question of my hon. colleague of the NDP. He indicated that he would be tabling a private member's bill sometime tomorrow or during the week. I am looking forward to the input of the hon. member and I will be reading it attentively and eventually react to it, I suppose, like all other members of this House, at the appropriate time. I appreciate the hon. member's question and the angle he is taking with respect to the question, i.e., money transferred from the federal government to the provinces and what the provinces may or may not do with it. I understand the nuance.