

*Adjournment Debate*

There are some who ask how we are going to finance all of those programs. We must effectively declare war on unemployment and make it our number one priority. In the short term, that means capital works projects, putting more money into reforestation, and the acceleration of municipal works projects, energy conservation projects and housing construction. It means putting people to work now. In the longer term, it means reindustrializing and the creation of a manufacturing sector.

The Prime Minister took the commendable initiative of promoting peace worldwide. I suggest that he and his Government now have an obligation to make their number one priority the creation of jobs. The people of Burnaby whom I have the honour to represent are demanding that the Government make meaningful job creation its number one priority. Until then, the Government is effectively condemning literally thousands of people to the economic scrap heap. As the Catholic bishops so eloquently noted in their report of a little over a year ago, that, Mr. Speaker, is fundamentally immoral. My constituents and the people of Canada deserve better.

*[Translation]*

**Mr. Jean-Guy Dubois (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Employment and Immigration):** On behalf of the Minister, Mr. Speaker, I would like to answer the question raised by the Hon. Member for Burnaby (Mr. Robinson) on December 20, 1983 concerning measures taken by the Government to offer permanent and worthwhile jobs to Canadians.

First of all, Mr. Speaker, I might say that even during this period of financial restraint, the Government has earmarked an unprecedented share of its budget for job creation. Total funds allocated this fiscal year are over \$1.2 billion and they will exceed \$1.1 billion next year, enabling us to find employment for more than 600,000 Canadians.

The creation of permanent jobs is an objective of the Government, but that cannot be achieved overnight. The Hon. Member has said that young people swell the ranks of the unemployed; unfortunately, it is true that they have a higher unemployment rate because they lack job experience and training. Some employers are reluctant to hire workers without experience, and young people have few opportunities to benefit from on-the-job training.

To put a stop to this vicious circle, the Government has decided to combine its job creation programs so that its human resources initiatives would be united under one or two action strategies, and we now have two programs, Career Access and the Youth Job Corps, which meet this purpose.

The Job Corps, under which each project can be financed for up to three years, offers to those who suffer from any employment handicap the possibility of acquiring basic skills, of getting job counselling and of gaining actual job experience.

The Career Access Program complements the first one by offering employers subsidies so that they may hire people without experience and give them the opportunity to receive on the job training and acquire work experience. While both programs are not specifically aimed at young people, it is expected that they will make up the majority of participants during the next two years.

Two more job-creation programs, Canada Works, and the Local Employment Assistance and Development Program, as well as summer jobs for students will provide our young people with valuable work experience which should increase their employability in the eyes of future employers. During this financial year and the next, we expect that almost 344,000 young people will take advantage of direct job-creation programs.

Mr. Speaker, the government is strongly committed to helping the unemployed find the full-time jobs they deserve. The enormous funds earmarked for direct job creation and training under the Occupational Training Act, the numerous schemes announced in the April budget and the appointment of a Minister of State (Youth), in this case Mrs. Céline Hervieux-Payette, show that the government is determined to create jobs. I would ask the Hon. Member to advise his electors to go to the Canada Employment Centre and apply to the Career Access program aimed at young people and other groups at a disadvantage on the labour market.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault):** Order please! The motion to adjourn the House is now deemed to have been adopted.

Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 11 a.m.

At 7 p.m., the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.