

Supply

real life experiences if one is not given the opportunity when one is young?

It has been said today that there are unfair subsidies in the private sector. It has been asked why jobs should be offered through Challenge '86 to the private sector anyway. I ask Hon. Members to take a good look at this. Once again, I think we have under-estimated the energy and commitment it takes from the private sector in order to become involved. Many private sector corporations and businesses do not want to participate at a certain point in time because they cannot. They realize it takes a real commitment to take on young people through programs such as Challenge '86. It takes time, and time means money. Because it costs money to become involved, in certain cycles of their growth they are not able to do so, while others are.

Rather than being negative about the private sector, Members opposite should be encouraging it to make such a commitment. Members of the Opposition should realize it takes time and money for these small businesses, and even big businesses, to become involved in this commitment to the young people of Canada. They should be applauding these measures as opposed to being so negative. I think this is a point which should be driven home again and again.

I ask Hon. Members to do what I have done. I have talked to small businessmen in my riding. Members of the NDP have told us that they are very interested in the world of work in terms of small business. I ask those Members to talk to people involved in small businesses in their ridings to find out just how much commitment it takes for a small-businessman to get involved in a program such as Challenge '86. When they find out just how much time and energy it takes, they will find out what I have found out. That is to say that even though there is a heavy commitment to time, over 80 per cent of the small businesses in London—Middlesex want to come forward and serve the youth of Canada.

When one considers the results, one sees that they are not so overpowering. It will be seen that in 1986 some 34.6 per cent of the funds are approved for the private sector, while 65.4 per cent are approved for the non-profit sector. There seemed to be a great deal of criticism going on today that is completely

unfounded. Members opposite are saying that we are placing all the money in the private sector. We are not. We realize that future jobs will come from this sector. I point out to Hon. Members that the majority of the rebuilding and economic renewal which is going on, to which we made a commitment in 1984, has been in the small business sector. The future for the rest of the 1980s and the early 1990s will certainly be in that sector again. So to give these young people an opportunity to work while they are learning in school and while they are training and then to progress into full-time jobs in the small business sector seems only appropriate. It seems that it is the right thing for the Government to do. Rather than being so negative about it we should be applauding the Government.

This is a great opportunity for me to be able to speak out on behalf of the Government today and the young people of Canada. I know that they have been all over Canada. They are asking the Government to move ahead. They cannot help but applaud our record to date with over 600,000 jobs having been created. They see that there has been a decrease in the percentage of youth unemployment from 18 per cent, which is what the figure was before we took office in 1984. They can see the figure decreasing, and they are very encouraged by our movements. I know that my study, which shows that the private sector wants to be involved, is matched by the enthusiasm of the applications of students from all over London and the surrounding area to be a part of it. We know that we are on the right track. So it is a pleasure to be able to say no to this motion today.

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. It being 6 o'clock, it is my duty to inform the House that, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 82 (12), the proceedings on the motion have expired.

[English]

This House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 11 a.m., pursuant to Standing Order 3(1).

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.