

Supply

coalition of groups from five cities. They came to Ottawa, met with the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Miss MacDonald) and with the Minister of State for Youth (Mrs. Champagne). They wanted to try to bring the Government to its senses and so they presented some valid information, such as the fact that 14,000 jobs for youth in the non-profit sector were at risk and that thousands of Canadians will lose day care, counselling and other services.

Let me digress for a moment, Mr. Speaker. I am sorry that the Minister of State for Youth has left the House.

Some Hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Orlikow: I wish she were here—

Some Hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Orlikow: Let me read a couple of paragraphs from an article which appeared in the *Montreal Gazette* on Tuesday of this week. It reads:

One hundred mentally retarded youths in Montreal won't go to camp this summer because the federal Government has decided to give more job-creation grants to businesses and less money to non-profit community organizations.

The Montreal Association for the Mentally Retarded, Spera drug rehabilitation program, the Côte des Neiges Black Community Association, the Salvation Army and about 100 other Montreal charities and community services are among the victims of Employment and Immigration Canada's decision to cut \$36 million from its job-creation program for students.

The non-profit agencies hired students to run day camps, counsel drug addicts or care for the elderly, and received full wage subsidies from Ottawa, under the Summer Employment Experience Development Program.

Those programs are not being funded this year. I would challenge the Minister of State for Youth or the Hon. Member for Dollard (Mr. Weiner) who participated in this debate to go to Montreal to meet people from the 100 groups who are not getting funded and give them examples of the programs that were funded in the private sector which were more socially useful or more practical—I see the Hon. Member for Dollard coming into the Chamber.

Mr. Weiner: I didn't miss a word you were saying.

Mr. Orlikow: That is wonderful. I challenge the Member to meet with these 100 community groups in his city and explain to them how the projects in the private sector which the Government funded are more worth-while than the programs that were cut off. I am sure the Member for Dollard will not do it. He does not have the courage to meet those people and explain the Government's program.

What happened when this committee, representing the Save Our Summer Coalition, saw the Ministers? They got very little thanks for their efforts. They were told by the Minister that she held out "no hope whatsoever that there was any chance of doing anything for the summer". This was despite her own departmental evaluation of Challenge '85 which found that the non-private sector was more successful than private sector firms in generating jobs and in generating career related jobs for students.

Having given an example from Montreal, let me talk for a few moments about my own City of Winnipeg. We have in the core area of Winnipeg a very large number of native people and a very large number of single parent families. Estimates done in the last year or two in that area tell us that there is close to 50 per cent unemployment. Yet in Manitoba the summer job-creation funds were cut from \$5.5 million to \$4 million, or a cut of 27 per cent, this year. Not only that, but a greater share of the funds will go to the private sector. In addition, money that was to be spent on job development funding was not spent in that way and was earmarked for projects of the Fisheries Department.

Many proposals were made by the public non-profit community organization which had done, is doing and wants to continue to do very essential useful work. Let me put on the record some of the proposals that were turned down: the North End Women's Centre. This Centre wanted to implement a program to retrain women prostitutes and former prison inmates into community workers; the BLAST child care centre wanted a program to train community persons for child care work; Pritchard Place, a program to train staff for the young people's drop-in centre; the Manitoba Child Care Association, a program to train workers for child care centres in 20 communities; Rossbrook House, an example of which any city could be proud and which any city could emulate with great benefit—if the Member on the other side wants to speak, let him speak on his own time. Rossbrook House was a program to train three youth Outreach workers; The Victoria-Albert Parents Council, a program to train local people to be language instructors, in an area with a large number of immigrants from many countries; the native KLAN, an organization which has been successful in helping native people who have been in prison to get back in the work stream, and which wanted a program to hire former prison inmates to work on redeveloping the river bank areas; the Lions Club, which had a management program service to train workers to work with the elderly in geriatric programs. The Lions Club has done a fantastic job in building housing for seniors. All of these programs were turned down.

I think no fair-minded person could say that those projects—and they are just a few of the kind of projects which were turned down—were not worth-while and could not have brought benefit to a part of the City of Winnipeg which needs all the help it can get. Yet a few weeks ago, when a meeting was called at Rossbrook House to discuss the problems which these organizations were having with funding, the Government was conspicuous by its absence. I was there. The Hon. Member for Winnipeg—Fort Garry (Mr. Axworthy) sent someone to represent him. The Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Epp) was invited. He said he could not be there but he would send somebody. Nobody came with authority to speak for the Government.

If the Government wants to stand on its record, the public has a right to know what the record is. I called the people in charge of the programs for the employment department in