

*Supply*

a decline from 100 per cent to 80 per cent to 65 per cent. In the House the other day the Minister asked: "What is wrong with that?" Of course, half the groups being funded are good groups. We have no objection to those groups being funded. However, this policy of diverting, which is what it is, money from the community voluntary sector to the private business sector is leaving a lot of very worth-while community service groups high and dry. These groups have operated during the summer for over 13 years. They were more or less built upon and improved upon year by year by various Governments, Conservative and Liberal. In 1979 the Conservative Government helped improve the programs. In the first year of this Conservative Government it did not tinker with that program. If anything, it tried to improve upon it. However, starting with the Challenge '85 program we saw a movement of funds towards the private sector.

I say that contradicts Conservative policy. One day of the week the Conservatives are saying let us not throw money at problems. I heard the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) saying that many times. The private sector can do it all. We should deregulate and let the private sector do its job. That is why I find it kind of strange when the Parliamentary Secretary gets up and says "We created 600,000 jobs". I thought the private sector created most of those jobs. The Conservatives are now claiming they created 600,000 jobs. I wish they would make up their minds. One minute they believe in the private market economy, which means business operates free of Government intervention; the next minute they are claiming responsibility for the creation of jobs put in place by the private sector. They are now taking money away from the voluntary sector which relies on public funds and things like the United Appeal, and giving it to the private sector. They are distorting the operation of the private market economy. In my riding there are examples of one private sector business being funded under this program and a competitor down the street is not getting a subsidy. So the one business has an unfair advantage over the other. That is distorting the market economy in a small market area.

There is a policy of diverting funds from the community sector to the private sector. The Minister has admitted that. The Deputy Minister admitted that. The Minister of Employment and Immigration (Miss MacDonald) admitted it. Whether they call it a target or a goal, I call it a quota. It boils down to approximately 40 per cent of the money going to the private sector. The very evening of the day I was put out of this House for questioning the veracity of the Minister's statements, I went to the Standing Committee on Labour, Employment and Immigration. The Minister was not there, neither was her Parliamentary Secretary. The Deputy Minister was there and I put it to him. I checked all over the country and it is coming out to about 40 per cent. Is that a quota? He said they do not call it a quota. It is not a quota. It is a goal. Approximately 40 per cent goes to the private sector but it is not a quota. I said in this constituency, that constituency and this other constituency, when people are going to their project officers and saying they would like to take the money from

three of these business organizations and give it to two or three or even one voluntary community group, the project officer says no, they cannot do that because a certain percentage of the money has to go to the private sector. What does the Deputy Minister say? He says they have a very decentralized Department and the managers in the field, in putting into operation these goals, might in fact be operationalizing what the Department wants to do by using what I might call quotas. If I ever heard playing with words, that is it. That is why I asked the Minister the next day what she calls it. Of course, she did not answer my question. There is a policy that approximately 40 per cent of the money, and it varies from region to region, goes to the business sector.

A lot of very good projects in the community sector are being eliminated. The Department did an evaluation of the Challenge '85 program. What did it say? It said that the non-profit sector was more successful than the private sector firms in generating jobs. It also said that almost two-thirds of the positions created in a non-private sector were of the administrative, professional variety, as compared to about one-quarter of the positions funded by the private sector. The community sector is better than the business sector with respect to career oriented jobs.

• (1610)

It also states that participants placed with employers in the non-private sector were considerably more likely to make positive statements about their summer employment experience than their private sector counterparts. There is more satisfaction from the students who work with the community projects than with the business projects.

It also points out that the lower degree of incremental impact in the private sector is of particular concern in light of the finding that 33 per cent of the career related jobs funded in the private sector were not, in the students' opinion, related to their course of studies. These are not my words, but the words in the evaluation report that was mandated by the Department of Employment and Immigration.

The Department did not even follow that report. The evaluators made those recommendations but the Department gave more money to the business sector instead of less than the previous year. While that is the Department's right, I wish it would be straightforward and say so, rather than trying to talk around the issue, gild the lily, and not answer the question. The Department's policy amounts to giving more assistance to the business sector and to ignoring the community volunteer sector.

Let me point out some of the projects that are being left out as a result of this policy. I will commence with one that I have already mentioned several times, and my colleague, the Hon. Member for Montreal—Sainte-Marie (Mr. Malépart), will mention it again when he speaks later. In centre Montreal, the Montreal Association for Retarded Children runs a summer camp for retarded children every year. Last year under the Challenge '85 program they hired 30 university students to