

The Budget—Mr. Roberts

last year's experimental private sector internships indicated the program was a tremendous success, both for the students involved and for the employers who hired them. Jobs have been created in a range of professional and highly skilled fields providing quality career-enhancing experience for students in activities such as medical and scientific research, program development in social, health and recreational services, and provision of technical services in fields ranging from computer applications to archeology, speech pathology and fashion design.

Also included in Summer Canada are the Department of National Defence cadet and reserve training programs and the RCMP special supernumerary constables program. These programs will create jobs for about 14,000 more students who are interested in jobs in the military, law, or law enforcement.

Another important aspect of the Government's summer employment initiatives are the Canada Employment Centres for students. More than 450 of these centres will begin opening across Canada next month. Operating through the summer, the centres serve as a key link in the community between the federal effort in student summer employment, other levels of government and the private sector.

In 1983 the Canada Employment Centres for students accounted for some 333,000 placements in both the public and private sectors. In all, over 550,000 registrations were taken and 374,000 job vacancies were listed with these student centres. Approximately 160,000 post-secondary placements were made while the remaining 172,000 placements were secondary students. This summer the centres expect to place more than 333,000 students in employment.

[Translation]

The Canada Employment and Immigration Commission also provides a series of permanent programs especially designed for young people. These include the International Exchange Program for Students and Young Workers, the services offered by On-Campus Canada Employment Centres and our special youth units.

These special units, which exist in every province, are designed to meet the specific needs of disadvantaged young people who are seeking employment. The units help young people prepare realistic career plans, in addition to acquiring practical job experience. This is done in co-operation with local private businesses and unions, and with the help of other agencies and individuals who are anxious to increase job opportunities for the young people in their communities.

Mr. Speaker, there is more, for in addition to the programs I just mentioned that are intended specifically for young people, there is also a large number of federal job creation programs for all Canadians, which also benefit young people.

These programs focus mainly on areas where the unemployment rate is particularly high. In addition to an opportunity to earn wages instead of drawing unemployment insurance benefits or being on welfare, individuals taking part in these programs can acquire skills that will be useful in future jobs.

[English]

Young people aged 25 and under are a major target of all of these programs. It is estimated that they represent close to half of all participants. In 1984-85 we estimate that some 70,000 young people will take part in the Canada Works Program. Another 78,000 will benefit from Career Access while youth participation in LEAD and the Job Corps will amount to 4,300 and 2,200 young people respectively. As well, young people are major participants in the federal training programs and represent 45 per cent of the clients of Canada Employment Centres and 50 per cent of the clients of the federally funded Outreach projects.

All of these efforts are designed to assist severely unemployed youth in establishing positive employment patterns and in easing the transition from school to work for youth in general. While they have been provided and are successful, we are not stopping there. Intensive efforts are currently being made to identify the best methods for assisting young people in becoming productive members of our work force. I will soon be going to Cabinet to discuss with my colleagues how the \$150 million of additional funds allocated in the recent Budget can best be allocated so that we can continue to provide young people with relevant employment-related assistance.

Our commitment to the young people of Canada of \$1.3 billion in Government of Canada programs is a heavy one. We owe it to them as a means of fulfilling the promise of opportunity in our society, and we owe it to ourselves as a means of investment in the future of our country.

Mr. Lewycky: Mr. Speaker, I listened with great interest to what the Minister had to say. As are most of my colleagues, in terms of constituency case work I am making sure that employment programs are a number one priority.

• (1530)

Could the Minister indicate whether he has had the opportunity to examine what his predecessor had done in terms of local advisory boards and their participation with regard to summer youth employment programs and so forth? This has given a more democratic element to the things we were faced with in our constituency. I am especially concerned about very large ridings such as mine, where people who participate on local advisory boards may have to travel 120 miles just in one direction to participate in meetings. Has the Minister had an opportunity to examine the way the local advisory boards function, and whether there has been any sort of evaluation done? Would the Minister consider reconstituting them for the upcoming programs? I would be very interested in the Minister's response to that.

Mr. Roberts: Yes, Mr. Speaker, we are assessing those boards. Since the assessment is not complete, I cannot give the Hon. Member a definitive response. I can say to him that I am partial myself to that kind of community involvement and the engagement of people in the private and voluntary sectors, and so on, in these issues. I do believe it is not by the federal