

The Address—Mr. Harvey

Mr. Speaker, one of the last themes discussed in the throne speech concerns world peace. It might seem contradictory to support our full participation in NATO while advocating peace. In my view it is like being on a team. When you do not do your own part, no one listens to you. This is true in military matters, in social affairs as well as in politics. I therefore believe that the commitment of the Progressive Conservative party to honour its obligations to NATO is a guarantee for the future allowing us to be a responsible and worthy partner.

I am convinced, Mr. Speaker, that in spite of the fact that all the Liberals can talk about these days is jobs, jobs, jobs, the best way to give jobs to the unemployed, and they are not simply 175,000 as in 1968, but 1.5 million because of the Liberal policies, is to seriously and strictly manage our public affairs and to explain our policies to the Canadian people. In so doing, I am convinced that there will be significant changes in the area of job creation in a short while.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to assure the residents of the Chicoutimi riding and the entire region, as well as all Quebecers of my commitment to job creation and to all the endeavours of this Government.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Are there questions or comments about the speech made by the Hon. Member? The Hon. Member for Burnaby (Mr. Robinson) for a question or a comment.

Mr. Robinson: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I first want to congratulate the Hon. Member on his maiden speech in this House. He mentioned the high rate of unemployment in his constituency, which I think is over 25 per cent. How then can the Hon. Member support the decision of the Government to cut back the funds allocated to the program designed to provide summer employment for students? The Government has decided to cancel this major program entirely with the result that many more students will be unemployed. Does the Hon. Member agree with this decision?

Mr. Harvey: Mr. Speaker, as concerns the job creation programs, Hon. Members too often omit, intentionally or not, to speak about the billion dollars which will be injected into employment programs. The programs which we shall implement will certainly be innovative. To reply to the question asked by the Hon. Member, I can assure him that the student program will be replaced by another job creation program which will meet the needs of students even better than the old one.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member for Burnaby (Mr. Robinson) for a supplementary.

Mr. Robinson: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Is the Hon. Member in a position to assure the House and the students in his constituency that there will be that much money to replace all of last summer's jobs? That in other terms, although this important

program has been terminated, it will be replaced with enough money to create the same number of jobs as last summer?

Mr. Harvey: Mr. Speaker, I can assure the Right Hon. Member—and this indeed would be a very good question for the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Miss MacDonald), and we should learn to respect each other's jurisdiction—but anyway I can assure the Hon. Member that, on the basis of the discussions held to this day and the orientation of the Minister of Employment and Immigration and all the emphasis she is putting on job creation, both for students and indeed for the heads of families who should not be ignored, I am convinced we will have an imaginative and interesting program which will generate jobs for everybody by next spring.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member for Bourassa for a question or comment.

Mr. Rossi: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Hon. Member for Chicoutimi (Mr. Harvey) what are his grounds for suggesting that there will be a student program, Summer Canada Project, which we in the Liberal Party had implemented, now that the Minister of Employment and Immigration herself has stated that this program was completely abolished? On what basis can he suggest that the program will be implemented?

Mr. Harvey: Mr. Speaker, clearly this Government is not anxious to create permanent jobs, and I will come back in a moment to the student aspect as referred to by the Hon. Member. When one represents a constituency with a 25 to 30 per cent unemployment rate, and even 50 to 55 per cent in certain rural communities, one realizes all the seriousness and reflection that must be applied to job creation programs. People in our area are fed up with band-aid projects. They are simply complementary programs, but we want to direct all our funds to permanent job creation. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, this would be a very pertinent question for the Minister of Employment and Immigration during tomorrow's question period, because this Government as a responsible Government and I feel certain of their as a responsible Member will not terminate the student employment programs for next spring and summer. As far as the details of the program are concerned, I would ask the Hon. Member to direct his question tomorrow to the Minister of Employment and Immigration.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Supplementary question. The Hon. Member for Bourassa.

Mr. Rossi: Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out to the Hon. Member that I did put the question to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. That is why I wonder how he can state that there will be a summer youth employment program. Also how can one talk about band-aid programs when it comes to the Summer Youth Employment Program?