

The Address—Mrs. Hervieux-Payette

of money. Could she indicate whether there is any new money in this program?

[Translation]

Mrs. Hervieux-Payette: Mr. Speaker, I think that my colleague is referring to general programs. When we talk about an increase, we have in mind the increase concerning young people. That increase has been announced in the Speech from the Throne and the funds will indeed be available. Some \$260 million have been added for young people alone.

[English]

Mr. Forrestall: Mr. Speaker, we do recognize the importance attached to youth in this country. I would once again draw to the Minister's attention that the former Minister of Employment and Immigration in April of last year, long before the Throne Speech, indicated that funding for youth programs during the fiscal year 1983-84 would in fact be \$1.12 billion. On the basis of a rough calculation I find that her comments today seem to be dealing with about the same amount of money. So much importance is attached to youth unemployment in this country which is critical. It is highly critical among the black youth in my riding. Programs which were in place for black women and black youth have been withdrawn. Is there any new money or any programs that we are not aware of the implementation of which will bring in additional dollars? Is there any new money additional to the money announced by the former Minister in April of 1983?

Mrs. Hervieux-Payette: Mr. Speaker, I think I was very clear when I said that career access was increased by \$100 million. This program already had a budget, of course. The Hon. Member should be differentiating between the job creation programs and the training programs. If we add all these together, the funding is much more than \$2 billion. I can assure the Hon. Member that whether it is native youth, black youth, or any young persons from the minority groups, I will make sure that all general programs, not only those targeted at youth, will be used proportionately for the unemployed youth in this country. I will make sure that these programs are available to them and that the amount of money set aside, which is well over \$2 billion, will be used for the youth fairly, making sure that they will have access to these programs.

[Translation]

Mr. Berger: Mr. Speaker, I also want to congratulate—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Herbert): This is the question period.

Mr. Berger: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to congratulate the Hon. Minister on her appointment and wish her success in her future undertakings. Opposition Members, especially the Progressive Conservative party, have often suggested that adding to our bureaucracy will not solve the problems of young Canadians. I wonder how the Minister would reply to this. Second, one of the proposals made by Members of this caucus, and particularly the Hon. Member for Shefford (Mr.

Lapierre), was to create a mobile youth team which would call on the colleges, universities and youth clubs for the purpose of speaking about existing programs. Does the Minister plan to follow up on this idea?

Mrs. Hervieux-Payette: Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Hon. Member for Laurier (Mr. Berger) for his question. He may be sure of one thing, the bureaucracy which will be responsible to me in the carrying out of my duties will certainly be as small as possible. I understand that the Secretary of State and the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Roberts) have adequate resources which are at my disposal, and I must say that, at the present time, I am quite content to be working with these resources. We shall therefore have just a small co-ordinating team to make sure that the programs designed for young people both within the Secretary of State and the Department of Employment and Immigration and other Government agencies will be better co-ordinated.

As for the last part of the question which refers to the possibility of having a mobile team of young people within our government programs who would be helping other young people, that is one of the measures we are considering. It is a very attractive concept to have young people helping their contemporaries and informing them about government programs, and I also see how they could inform employers and volunteer organizations about the thousands of young people who are willing to work and be of service to society. If we can set up a government project that would not only direct young people to government programs but also get them involved in society as a whole, I think it would be very interesting alternative, and I can assure my hon. colleague that our ministry will give it careful consideration.

● (1630)

[English]

Mr. Murphy: Mr. Speaker, as the new Minister realizes, there is a crisis in unemployment among youth in this nation today, with over 20 per cent of young people being unemployed. One of the remedies to which many young people have resorted is to try to go back for post-secondary education. At this time the Government has capped its funding for post-secondary educational institutions to 6 per cent last year and 5 per cent this year. This is retroactive legislation in the Bill that is presently before the House.

During this time of high unemployment, with universities facing cut-backs in services and universities and other post-secondary institutions considering limiting enrolment, could the Minister use her good offices to talk to the Minister of Finance and encourage more funding than the limited increases that are proposed in Bill C-12 for those institutions to make sure that there are places for young people next fall?

Mrs. Hervieux-Payette: Mr. Speaker, perhaps it is not my role to correct my hon. friend's figures but the unemployment rate among youth is 18.5 per cent. I would not like to be over