

Adjournment Debate

today. Those coming out of high school who have not graduated but who will be looking for full-time employment will be about 200,000. The total number of young people leaving university, college and high school will be about half a million, and they will be looking for their first full-time job in 1983.

When the figures are totalled, we find that about 1.5 million young Canadians will be seeking their first full-time jobs. Of course, as the Prime Minister suggested, all of them will be waiting for the famous budget tomorrow night that is going to solve their problems. They are not going to be fooled by adjusting unemployment figures. They know that they are looking for jobs and if they do not find them, they will be numbered among the unemployed.

● (1805)

This Government will have to allow the private sector to move and to work, because it will have to create a great deal of those jobs and potential opportunities for our young Canadians. I presume that is what the Prime Minister was talking about, and that was his intention when he referred to waiting for the budget for this last week. I presume that the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) is going to undo the damage which has been caused by the budget he inherited and the budgets which have come before. They have caused no end of problems, in fact have created a situation in which the number of unemployed young people in Canada is now approaching in the neighbourhood of 1.5 million. All of these people who are looking for jobs represent the future potential for Canada. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I believe that is the situation that exists. It is a serious problem, one which this Government must address very quickly.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Rémi Bujold (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, with the Member for Peace River (Mr. Cooper), I believe that the Government is necessarily concerned about youth unemployment, and the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) and the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Axworthy) have indicated this quite clearly. That is why this year, the Government has decided to inject \$50 million more in the Summer Canada Program. We would like about 72,000 young people to have jobs within this Program during the summer season, but it will of course be impossible to meet all requests, and that is why we are appealing to the private sector to do its share.

The Minister of Employment and Immigration opened a Student Employment Center today in Toronto, and he said that with the co-operation of the private sector, we would probably be able to find jobs for 329,000 students during the summer. It is vital to have the private sector co-operate with the Federal Government in providing summer jobs for students that will enable them to continue their studies in the fall.

This year we have added another section to the Summer Canada Program to provide a training program for students over a period of three years, during which they would be able

to work in a company to improve their skills, so that when they finish their schooling, they will be able to enter the labour market more readily. Very briefly, I would like to point out that the Government is concerned about youth unemployment in general. As far as training is concerned, in 1982-1983, 19,232 young people will have benefited from this Program which is helping them to improve their skills and subsequently enter the labour market and be able to take jobs which normally would not have been available to them.

Perhaps I may also mention the NEED Program, Mr. Speaker. We have been able to provide employment for large numbers of young people who normally would have been unable to find employment. Mr. Speaker, I think this indicates the Government is entirely aware of the unemployment problem among young people, and as the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) said, we obviously hope, with all Members on the other side of the House, that tomorrow evening's budget will contain measures that will also be beneficial to the young people of Canada.

● (1810)

AIR TRANSPORT—MIRABEL FILE

Mr. Robert Gourd (Argenteuil-Papineau): Mr. Speaker, I think I will have all the patience needed to wait for the day the notorious Mirabel affair is brought to a successful issue. On October 15, 1979, when as an Opposition Member I made my maiden speech, I asked the then Minister of Transport about the status of Mirabel. On November 5, 1979, for a second time, I put forward to the same minister some proposals concerning Mirabel. Unfortunately for them, fortunately for us, they were sent back to the Opposition benches. On April 21, 1980, I brought up the subject again. I asked for information on the transfer of flights from Dorval to Mirabel, having in mind the economic well-being of the residents of Argenteuil-Papineau and especially the profitability of Mirabel Airport. On December 2, 1980, I made further representations to the Minister of Transport with a view to ensuring Mirabel's economic viability. On February 18, 1981, I again turned to the Minister for information on the matter. On March 23, I was speaking once more for Mirabel's viability. On April 23, 1981, I appealed for a new policy on fuel costs. On October 26, 1981, I again asked the Minister for details on his flight transfer policy. On February 16, 1982, I asked the Minister if he indeed had the political will to make Mirabel viable. On May 14, 1982, I asked him once more whether we would have a decision soon. On May 20, 1982, I asked the same question. On July 16, 1982, I asked what the Government's intentions were concerning Mirabel's viability. On August 2, 1982, I touched once more on the subject, this time successfully, Mr. Speaker, for on August 6, 1982, at a press conference held in Montreal, the Minister of Transport made a few announcements. He said among other things that the Flying Tiger Corporation, the biggest cargo airline in the world, would be licensed to operate a cargo service between Mirabel and