

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the Government has its agenda. It was elected to do certain things. One of them is to create jobs for young people, and that is exactly what we are doing.

With regard to places where young people have not had a chance before—because the previous Government's programs did not assist them—I can tell the Member that in Sydney, Cape Breton, 20 unemployed young people are now getting a chance to train in electronic and mechanical assembly. In northern Quebec young native people are getting a chance to train on jobs for the James Bay Hydro project. In Edmonton young people who are hearing impaired are getting a chance—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: A short supplementary.

[Translation]

GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Roland de Corneille (Eglinton-Lawrence): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister doesn't seem to understand in English. Considering the pressing need for a program for young people, does the Prime Minister intend to demonstrate his Government's open attitude by giving a clear response to the proposal he received from Professor Dion, both in public and in private, and to which he has yet to respond?

[English]

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, there have been numerous programs that have been introduced by Governments at different times and discontinued. The previous Government did that with the Company of Young Canadians and with the Opportunities for Youth programs. That Government felt it had a mandate at certain times to discontinue programs, and the former Minister of Youth thought that Katimavik should have been discontinued.

Mr. de Corneille: Answer the question.

Miss MacDonald: We feel that we have a mandate to do the best we can for young people in the creation of jobs. That is what we are doing, and we are doing it all across the country.

Mr. Nunziata: You do not have a mandate any more.

GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor-Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Prime Minister. If we can lay aside Katimavik and the strike by the Senator, does the Prime Minister not think that after International Youth Year, a Senate committee report, a New Democratic Party report, federal youth fora, and a promise, the Government has missed an opportunity for a reconciliation with youth, which the

Oral Questions

Government needs, by failing to live up to the P.M.'s promise? Does the P.M. not think he has missed a chance with a little shuffle to the same old tune?

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I think that 50,000 new jobs for young people is the beginning of living up to our promise.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Miss MacDonald: We do not by any means say that it is complete. That is why the programs we are developing are directed toward those most in need, to those whom no one else might help, to those whom the Government has a responsibility to assist. That will be some 218,000 young people this year. Already the programs are showing tremendous success. They are not perfect. They will be changed from time to time, and I would invite the continuing participation and input of the Hon. Member.

SIZE OF GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor-Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, does the Minister not think, because \$1.26 billion was spent in 1984-85 and \$864 million in 1986, that to suggest \$732 million this year is an improvement is to mislead the public and the youth of the country?

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I do not know where the Hon. Member is getting his figures. I can tell him they are wrong if the Member is applying them to youth only. We have a budget of some \$2 billion; 44 per cent of which is going to youth programs. I think that that is a very commendable effort.

Mr. Deans: That is what he just said.

Miss MacDonald: It may be that that should be increased and I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that I will be looking to the Minister of State for Youth to advise me in this whole field.

Mr. Gauthier: Don't hold your breath.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PROGRAM

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce-Lachine East): Mr. Speaker, if you are having trouble in this House, it is due to the cynicism of the Prime Minister—

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Order.

Some Hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: I am sick and tired of that kind of banter.

Mr. Althouse: Who are you?