

Opportunities for Youth Program

it. I resent the repeated innuendos of the parliamentary secretary and the Minister without Portfolio in that regard.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Faulkner: Well, Mr. Speaker, on that note I will become far more conciliatory if it is the position of hon. members opposite that they will not play politics with the Opportunities for Youth program, in view of our commitment to work with them on projects about which they may have doubts. I shall certainly cease the line of argument I thought was not terribly offensive but which apparently has touched a sore point.

Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, I could go on to say that we are under no illusion that the success or failure of the Opportunities for Youth program will be determined simply by the young people themselves. If this program is to work it must be apparent to all of us that it will involve the full and total co-operation of all Members of Parliament regardless of party, city councillors, the public at large, and of course the young people. Where there are shortcomings and where there are doubts expressed by Members of Parliament and others, we will attempt to deal with those, but on the broad principle or on the broad purpose behind the program we need the support of all members of this House.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Faulkner: We have gone through this debate this afternoon and, in some measure, I hope it has helped to clear the air. I now hope we might proceed to work together, undistracted by obvious political differences—

An hon. Member: You did not have to say that.

Mr. Faulkner: I am simply accepting the offer made by the hon. member for Egmont, and I hope he was speaking for you as well. I hope that we can all work together, undeterred by individual failures, to ensure that those 30,000 who are fortunate enough to have their projects approved will complete a summer which makes sense to them, makes sense to their community and is a meaningful test of the principle behind the Opportunities for Youth program.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, I interrupt the parliamentary secretary to advise him his time has expired.

Some hon. Members: Carry on.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is it the wish of the House that the parliamentary secretary continue?

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Mac T. McCutcheon (Lambton-Kent): Mr. Speaker, in the short period of time I intend to utilize I shall try to be calm, reasonable and collected, but it will be damned difficult. It has been a very trying and very discouraging experience for me, with my Irish background, to see what has been happening to \$25 million of the

[Mr. MacDonald (Egmont).]

taxpayer's money. Right at the outset, I wish to say that the parliamentary secretary and the Minister without Portfolio were extremely touchy today.

Mr. Mahoney: Oh, boy! There is an expert opinion.

Mr. McCutcheon: I tried to listen carefully—

An hon. Member: You were not here, were you?

Mr. McCutcheon: Yes, I have been here all afternoon. I want to say to hon. members opposite that we do not criticize or resent either the youth program or the youth.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. McCutcheon: What we do resent is the ineptitude in the Department of Secretary of State.

An hon. Member: That is putting it mildly.

Mr. McCutcheon: I do not believe ever in history has any department of government abdicated its responsibilities to such an extent. This department must be directed either by inexperienced misfits or by people who are maliciously trying to destroy the moral fibre of our youth. It is easy to blame the government, but I do not blame the government because it has been explained that time was short, that it was a crash program and that as a consequence there was no time in which to obtain qualified people. This I accept, but I say I am grateful that among the people the government did get was Mr. Cam Mackie who has a fine reputation. No one here will really know how bad this program might have been had it not been for the services of Mr. Mackie. I am the first to admit he is surely trying, but I shall go further and say that the past president of the Student Liberals and the son of a cabinet minister who are in this department and directing it are trying, too. Yes, they are very trying.

Mr. Stanbury: Mr. Speaker, may I ask a question of the hon. member?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The minister may ask a question only with the consent of the hon. member.

Mr. McCutcheon: Mr. Speaker, I would be happy to entertain the minister's question when I am finished. I am sure he can keep it in mind until then. I am concerned about the lack of answers coming to the young people. The *Globe and Mail* refers to a video tape project here in Ottawa. According to the *Globe and Mail*, the project was approved on May 1 and unless action has been taken today these people have not yet received a penny. The summer is slipping by in idleness and six weeks have passed since this project was approved. This is what I am complaining about. In the same issue of the *Globe and Mail* it is reported that the Elizabeth Fry officials were assured by phone that their grant had been approved. Ten students were conned into not taking jobs on the basis of this money being expected. Two of them turned down forestry jobs. I am not here merely to criticize the program. I criticize the lack of action by the department.