

hypocrisy! And yet what else can they do in the face of this PC record of solid achievement, a record unmatched in Canadian history?

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YOUTH

REDUCTION IN UNEMPLOYMENT

Mrs. Pauline Browes (Scarborough Centre): Mr. Speaker, young people in Canada welcome the positive policies the Government has introduced over the past 18 months. Young Canadians welcome the fact that youth unemployment has fallen 2 percentage points since 1984, and that 50,000 more young people are working today because of the sound economic strategy the Government has followed. Young Canadians also welcome the fact that the Government is reducing the burden of debt that they will be forced to bear as they grow older.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, young Canadians welcome the practical job training programs, such as Challenge '86, which the Government has developed. Challenge '86 is already proving to be a huge success in my riding of Scarborough Centre as businesses flood the employment centres with project applications. Economic growth, job creation, and social justice are what young people expect from their Government, and those are what the Government is delivering.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

YOUTH

SENATOR'S HUNGER STRIKE

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. I have just learned that the indifference of the Government to the plight of young Canadians has led one of Canada's most distinguished humanitarians, Senator Jacques Hébert, to undertake the extraordinary step of holding a hunger strike outside the Senate as a protest against the Government's indifference. Therefore, will the Government not recognize what its inaction is doing to a whole generation of young Canadians, and immediately institute adequate funds and programs to address in a real way the problems of young Canadians all across the country?

● (1415)

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, the Government's record in the over-all increase of jobs for young people from September, 1984, to January, 1986, is 75,000 jobs. That is a monthly increase of approximately 5,000 jobs. This is quite a contrast

Oral Questions

with the net loss of jobs which occurred in the previous four years during the Government of which the Opposition House Leader was a member.

LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, the Minister forgets that youth unemployment rose substantially last month and it is still too high. How can he say his Government is doing enough to deal with the problems of our youth when the Minister of State for Youth, in her infamous secret letter to a colleague, said: "There has been a significant diminution in youth-related spending, close to \$100 million since the election"?

Is that not the truth? You cut spending and programs for young people. Why don't you do something about it?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): No, Sir, it is not a new version of the truth; it is a new version of the twist. The truth is that the Liberal record from April, 1980, to September, 1984, was an over-all decrease of 285,000 jobs for young people. We turned that around to an increase of 75,000 jobs. The actual truth is that under the previous Liberal Government there was a net monthly loss of 5,200 jobs. We turned that around to 5,000 newly created jobs a month for young people.

REQUEST THAT MINISTER BE DISMISSED

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, the Deputy Prime Minister is suggesting that it is not the truth when the Minister responsible for youth says there has been a significant diminution in youth-related spending, close to \$100 million since the election. Will he then do the meaningful thing, and get rid of this Minister of State for Youth and get one who will really do the job, because she is not doing it? The Deputy Prime Minister proved that in what he said criticizing the truth of what she said in that infamous letter.

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): The Official Opposition House Leader should know better, given his background, than to make such a charge. He obviously has not read Part III of the Estimates which indicate that, in agriculture, some \$7.486 million is being spent on youth-related employment. In EIC itself he has heard the Minister say that some \$700 million is going toward direct youth employment. From CIDA there is \$10.5 million going to scholarships for studies and international development assistance. In DIAND there is \$533,037 for scholarships. In DND there is \$2.271 million for the Air Cadet League, the Army Cadet League, and the Navy Cadet League. From Health and Welfare there is \$6.687 million. In Justice—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!