

Supply

would have received thousands of dollars under the NEED Program if it had been approved for municipalities has 32 employees subject to recall, which means that it would have to rehire these 32 people to be eligible for the provincial subsidy program.

No municipality should consider this as a subsidy because all major cities in Quebec, such as Sherbrooke, Montreal and Quebec, have unionized employees that are subject to recall. This program is therefore nothing but a smokescreen. In my opinion, the Provincial Government is simply seeking wide publicity. However, young people in Granby will not be able to take part in municipal projects because none can be undertaken in the present circumstances.

To come back to youth employment and the Federal programs in this area, I said earlier that the contribution made by the private sector is its most important element. I was therefore glad to see that the NEED Program now provides an opening for the private sector. I would like to give an example of a project which was accepted in my constituency, namely the case of the Ezeflow company which has now decided to upgrade its plant and to relocate. When the NEED program was announced, the owner told me that thanks to the \$120,000 grant, he would hire 15 temporary workers for a few weeks, and then he would have to hire 30 permanent workers after moving to the new plant. And if among the 15 employees hired through the NEED Program I find good workers, I will keep them. Consequently, the NEED Program in the private sector may turn out to be a program which will promote the creation of permanent jobs. That is one example among many others which I can now witness in my riding, and I am convinced that everywhere else in the province and throughout the country they have a similar experience. A Member opposite was trying to say earlier that there is too much Government intervention, but all the potential employers whom I met and to whom I mentioned the NEED Program are very anxious to participate in these economic recovery projects, and I am confident indeed that they will create not only temporary jobs for many young Canadians, but permanent jobs as well.

Last week the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Axworthy) announced that twelve programs will be combined into four. I must admit that I welcome that initiative. Our colleagues opposite may not want to advertise so that people do not get to know our programs, but I for one feel that we do need a bit of publicity and that our programs ought to be as simple as possible to enable Canadians to derive real benefits from them without having to make 32 phone calls, arrange 43 appointments and write letters with umpteen copies. We all know that simplification is the order of the day in a crisis such as we have. Since the Minister of Supply and Services (Mr. Blais) is in the House, I take this opportunity to commend him for the way he has launched the special projects. He has decided to shorten delays, to do away with bureaucratic red tape, and to get on with the job immediately. In my opinion, the Minister of Employment and Immigration is taking similar action through the NEED Program, the CLE

Program, the ACCESS Program and the Summer Job Corps Program. The twelve federal programs will become four generously funded programs which will be easy to administer and which the interested groups will readily understand. That is why when I hear our colleagues opposite claim that indeed they are concerned about the youth unemployment issue, I am tempted to point out to them, particularly to the Progressive Conservatives, that the last time they raised the question of youth problems in the House was during the Tory convention when the young pro-Clark delegates were given expense accounts to come to Ottawa and fill up the galleries. As I recall, Mr. Speaker, that was the only time the Progressive Conservative Members devoted an oral questions period to the problems of young Canadians, the only time in their history, and it was nothing but a real show.

I am sure that even today they pay lip service to the issue without suggesting a solution because, ever since that convention, they have not given a thought to young people and right now they are less concerned about idle youths than they are about 13 or 14 year old youngsters who are still attending school and whom they want to parade on the convention floor. I hope that once and for all they will come to grips with the problems of young people, not only when they have their leadership brawls. That is the only time we see them.

I conclude my remarks by expressing the hope that within the next few weeks or months Members from both sides of the House will get together in parliamentary committees to examine the overall situation of young people in Canada with respect to unemployment and social issues. I hope as well that the Progressive Conservative Party and the New Democratic Party will select Members who have a little bit of imagination, who will not look upon youngsters as so many more votes at the convention, and who will come up with ideas and solutions. The Government is now working alone, but I would suggest that the problem is so serious that everybody must come to grips with it. Mr. Speaker, I thank you for being so patient and so attentive.

● (1240)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): The Minister of Supply and Services (Mr. Blais).

Mr. Blais: Mr. Speaker, I should like in the first place to congratulate the Hon. Member for Shefford (Mr. Lapierre) who spoke so eloquently as usual. I also congratulate him for having dealt with the important issue of youth.

My question, Mr. Speaker, concerns a part of his speech in which he dealt with the NEED Program. I was recently in the Lac-Saint-Jean area and I was scandalized when I realized that federal-provincial co-operation was not only non-existent but even negative. He spoke about the PRIME program. I would like him to be more specific because if I remember well the NEED program was intended for the construction of wharves and various recreational facilities, but because of the