

we will solve the problem of youth unemployment. They are part of our society. We are part of the solution as well as part of the problem.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): The Hon. Member for Fraser Valley East (Mr. Patterson).

Mr. Malone: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): The Hon. Member for Fraser Valley East.

Mr. Patterson: Mr. Speaker, I listened with interest to the statement of the Minister. She was saying that we should not be allocating blame. Of course, we all know that the blame rests primarily with the present Government because it failed to recognize the trend which brought us to the point we are today with a drastic unemployment problem among the young as well as older people.

In a question this morning I made reference to a report made by the Fraser Valley College. It set up a task force to investigate the very serious problem there. Dr. Barry Moore, the President of the College, found the report devastating. The second recommendation of the committee was for the establishment of a student placement and job search office at the college in co-operation with the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission.

To what extent are our Manpower offices authorized to respond to community initiatives such as this in their efforts to meet the challenge of youth unemployment?

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): The Hon. Minister of State (Youth) (Mrs. Hervieux-Payette) for a brief answer to the question.

Mrs. Hervieux-Payette: Yes briefly, Mr. Speaker, I must say that currently in Canada, hundreds of Student Employment Centres already exist on our campuses. I cannot be specific as to that campus, but I know that if there is any possibility of expanding the program that is already in place, certainly my colleague, the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Roberts), will do it.

As for blaming the Canadian Government, I would remind the Hon. Member that there are eight Conservative provincial governments, one separatist government and a further Creditist one, and I did not blame the lack of youth employment on those governments. What is needed in my view is a co-operative action, friendly efforts from all parties concerned, whether management, labour, education institutions, youth groups or provincial governments. Blaming others will not solve the problem faced by our young people. They are counting on much more positive responses.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): Debate.

[English]

Mr. St. Germain: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Supply

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): On a point of order, the Hon. Member for Mission-Port Moody (Mr. St. Germain).

Mr. St. Germain: Mr. Speaker, we get such little opportunity to ask questions on such an important issue, is there a possibility that we could extend the question period for at least one more question to the hon. Minister? I would like to ask her a question, and I am seeking permission of the House, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): Is there unanimous consent for the Hon. Member for Mission-Port Moody to ask an additional question?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): Agreed. The Hon. Member for Mission-Port Moody.

Mr. St. Germain: Mr. Speaker, the Minister mentioned that there was no solution to youth employment, the biggest issue facing this country today. She mentioned lack of productivity and training. I believe she possibly advocated protectionism in her speech. As a Minister of the Government, would the Minister please tell the House what if any suggestions she is making to stimulate the economy? She has said that the only way to solve the youth unemployment situation is through small and medium-sized business. Does the Minister have a suggestion? Would she tell the House what it is so that we can start establishing confidence in the country?

Mrs. Hervieux-Payette: Mr. Speaker, perhaps I should address a special clientele, those who have the most difficulty finding a job. They take more than 20 weeks to find a job. This includes about 250,000 young people in our country. These are unskilled, drop-out students in our country. Of the last \$130 million which I announced, \$30 million will be devoted to develop a special scheme to ensure that they get training on the job. I do not think the education system is the perfect formula for them. I think the private sector can help us in training them. Experiments have been conducted in other countries and I do not think I have time to name all of them, but the British scheme is one which we can look at very carefully.

I am willing, Mr. Speaker, to ask the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) for \$250 million, or \$1 billion for those 250,000 who need it, but before I do that, I want to test the formula and make sure that the private sector understands that we are working with them to develop the formula. I hope that by the time of the next Budget speech the Minister of Finance will be convinced that we have the right formula. In that way these unemployed people will have the possibility to get not only training, but jobs.

Mr. St. Germain: We do not want grants, we want a return of confidence.