

The Address—Mr. Dick

created are jobs that have been created several times. They are recycled jobs. In some cases they last for only six or eight weeks. Does the Minister have any statistics that would truly reflect the permanent jobs that have been created in the public or private sector so that we can have a clear picture and more precise statistics when comparing our performance with that of other industrial countries?

Mr. Roberts: Mr. Speaker, I disagree with the Hon. Member's interpretation of the statistics. As I said in my speech, I believe that the best criterion in terms of gauging economic performance is the overall job creation. As I said, seasonally adjusted, that is up 378,000. That means that, seasonally adjusted, there were 378,000 more jobs at the end of 1983 than there were at the beginning of it. That is not a temporary in-and-out phenomenon. At the end of that period, we were that much further ahead than we had been the year before. That would be my first comment to him.

Second, there are those—and I do not mean this personally in relation to the Hon. Member—who denigrate the creation of short-term jobs. Obviously we prefer to have longer term permanent jobs than short-term jobs. Nevertheless, the establishment of short-term jobs is extraordinarily important, particularly because, as the statistics which I read indicate, the primary problem with job-creation in Canada at the present time is with first-time entrants into the labour force. That short-term job is tremendously important for these first-time entrants. It gives them experience, a passport if you like, which makes it much easier to get employment downstream. The most important barrier for young people entering the labour force for the first time is not having job experience. It would be wrong to denigrate the creation of short-term jobs in the Canadian economy. That is very important. Having admitted that, I do not think the Hon. Member has interpreted properly the statistics which I presented, and I have tried to explain to him the reason.

Mr. Murphy: Mr. Speaker, my question relates to a Government program which comes under the Minister's portfolio, the work-sharing program. As the Minister is aware, miners in Thompson, Manitoba benefited from the work-sharing programs last year. The workers in that area are more than grateful that the program was in place. However, they have expressed a concern to me. Now that they are back at work and are facing a summer shutdown, which will probably cost the Government more money, the company is having workers working overtime and extra shifts almost on a continuous basis. Since so much of the taxpayers' money was used to help the company maintain a smaller work force and since more taxpayers' money will be used this summer when the workers are again laid off, when the Government is negotiating programs in the future with corporations such as Inco, will it look at the use of overtime before and after these workers go on work-sharing programs?

Mr. Roberts: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member is quite correct that work sharing has been a successful and popular program in Ottawa, not work sharing that is imposed by the

Government but work sharing that is voluntarily accepted by the workers and management and with which we assist.

I was not aware of the specific case which the Hon. Member has drawn to my attention. I would like to familiarize myself with the details of it before I make a response. I promise that I will be in touch with him to reply in more detail than I feel able to do at the moment.

● (1620)

Mr. Paul Dick (Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, it is of interest that we have had a discourse on job creation and unemployment in the youth area, because that is the very topic I want to discuss today.

The Government has made some bold and flamboyant claims. A large proportion of the Government's job-creation expenditures will go to unemployed youth. As was brought out by my colleagues in questions to the Government, we see that the Government prefers to talk about the number of jobs created. Mr. Speaker, we have known for 10 years that this means job placements. A job may last for two weeks, then that person could be placed in another job a month later for two weeks and a month later in still another job. According to the statistics, that person would have three jobs. But these are job placements, Mr. Speaker, and not full-time employment opportunities.

In the Throne Speech the Government used one word which gave me some encouragement when it said that these programs would be delivered more "effectively". The Government has not been very effective in delivering its programs to date. It now hopes to assist young Canadians to acquire new skills. There is talk about the Career Access Program which this Party has endorsed and which is one of the more successful programs. The Province of Ontario was the first to enter into job subsidy programs and we are glad that the federal Government has finally copied its initiative.

The Government has appointed a Minister of State for Youth. I would point out that in 1979 this Party proposed a youth secretariat. We hope that this will not become an overblown bureaucracy but will be an effective, small, efficient group of people working in that Ministry to expedite the Government's various youth programs.

There are probably 150 youth programs within the federal Government, spread over 22 or 23 different departments or agencies. There is no single booklet or place where these have ever been pulled together so that information on all of them can be handed through a young person showing what the youth programs do for them. When I was youth critic for this Party some years ago I pulled these programs together. In 1979 I found out that the Government had 167 programs in 22 different Departments and agencies and spent \$775 million on them. But there was no co-ordination, Mr. Speaker. I think it is regrettable that the Government does not pull them all together, and I certainly hope that will be a first priority of the Ministry of State for Youth.

By and large all these programs encourage employment. I express it that way because a number of them are bursary