

industry to Ontario? So far as I know, nothing. Other initiatives have been taken by private companies such as GM and Toyota.

I see you indicating, Mr. Speaker, that my time is rapidly coming to a close. Unfortunately my time is not longer, but I realize we have to get through this Throne Speech. I have briefly outlined a very serious situation where we have lost in this country between 80,000 and 100,000 jobs. This is at a time when our manufacturing sector is threatened by a lot of offshore, much more cheaply made manufactured goods, not only in the automobile industry, but the whole manufacturing industry, at a time when we are being assaulted and bombarded by high technology. We cannot hold back high technology. We can humanize it. We can bring it in in a rational way so that it displaces the absolute minimum number of workers. However, we have total control over how many Japanese cars enter this country or whether the Japanese begin to manufacture automobiles here and buy their parts here.

I urge the Government to move on this, not just to fly back to Tokyo, but to get the Japanese negotiators here in Ottawa and really stick it to them. We should tell them that they have one or two years to source their parts up to 60 per cent or not more Japanese cars will be sold in Canada until they do so.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Herbert): Questions or comments?

● (1650)

[*Translation*]

Mr. Jean Lapierre (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to be taking part in the debate today on the Speech from the Throne, and I shall be speaking to one aspect I found particularly interesting, and that is the appointment of a Minister of State for Youth.

Mr. Speaker, for several years and especially in the last few months, many colleagues on this side of the House have been hearing about, and have supported, a plan to establish a Ministry for Youth, something many young people across this country have been asking for. Following the whole political process—I would say that within the structures of our own Party, in the Youth Commission, for instance, the young Liberals of Canada made their views known—the Government decided in favour of a proposal to appoint a Minister of State for Youth.

Mr. Speaker, I think the vast majority of young Canadians were very pleased with the news in the Speech from the Throne and were disappointed at the reaction of the Leader of the Official Opposition (Mr. Mulroney), who had criticized the proposal when it was announced. I realize it was the day after his first Caucus meeting and that he was rather nervous, but just the same, he did say the proposal was a gimmick.

Mr. Speaker, from the favourable reception this proposal has received among all groups in Canada, it is clear that once again, the Leader of the Opposition was out of touch. Mr.

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Speaker, behind this proposal was a belief that a Ministry for Youth would play a major role within the federal Government, and there was also the consideration that young Canadians who represent over one quarter of the population needed a spokesperson within the Government, and that the Government itself needed someone to communicate with a group that is too often taken for granted.

Mr. Speaker, there was also the realization of a lack of co-ordination among eighty-seven different programs spread over various Government departments, totalling nearly \$6 billion in expenditures. That is why it was necessary to clean up our act, to examine and assess these various programs and see whether they meet the needs and priorities of the youth in the eighties. As Hon. Members know, many of these programs have been designed in the forties, the fifties and particularly in the sixties. So I believe the Minister of State for Youth will face a tremendous task. I see the Minister is in the House and I am happy to share my views with her.

Mr. Speaker, one of the problems we noted was that there was a lack of information amongst the Canadian youth. In this regard, as soon as the Minister of State has completed an inventory of these programs, hopefully she will put in place new and innovative mechanisms allowing young Canadians to be better informed about programs they have access to. I strongly believe this International Year of Youth will prove a golden opportunity for the Minister to illustrate not only the government's contribution to youth, but also youth's contribution to society, while recognizing the weaknesses and deficiencies in our system.

A problem which all of us often face in this House is that we are somewhat lamenting the lack of decentralization to the regions. In various meetings we had with representatives of some 200 groups from all parts of Canada, most of them criticized us for being out of touch with their daily lives and concerns. In this context, I hope we will manage to draw closer and closer to these young people who, in the final analysis, are feeling somewhat lost in these difficult years, somewhat left behind. In this regard, this initiative of creating a Ministry of State for Youth will certainly contribute to break this isolation.

Obviously, we will also have to rethink our whole system of national programs. In some cases, criteria may be considered quite equitable when viewed from headquarters here in Ottawa, but sometimes officials travel in the field, in different regions of Canada, only to find out that the programs are not always applicable as such in a given area. Given her great sensitivity to people, I am convinced the Minister will see to it that the criteria are true to the real world and that programs are properly targeted.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard several criticisms from people who charged that we were intent on creating a whole new bureaucracy, on increasing the government machinery, and I am quite sure this is not at all the intention of the government