

When will the minister and his colleagues wake up to the fact that no plans for youth means no plans for the future?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): There are several initiatives in this budget that will indeed help the youth in their education. I refer him to the budget. There are a number of initiatives with respect to the education credit.

If the hon. member has any other specific suggestions, I would be very pleased to receive them.

Mr. Joe Fontana (London East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance.

Yesterday's budget on the one hand provided access to home ownership for Canadians with savings, with which we agree. On the other hand, the government has abandoned its commitment to affordable social housing. This budget cuts funds for affordable housing by 50 per cent in three years and is eliminating some 12,000 affordable units in the next two years.

Why has this government relegated over one million Canadians, including 500,000 children living in inadequate shelter, into permanent poverty with no hope of ever being able to own a home and with no hope of ever finding adequate shelter?

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I thought my colleague opposite would be congratulating the Minister of Finance and this government for some of the excellent things they did for housing.

Instead, it gives me an opportunity to point out to him and to reassure people who are dependent on social housing that we are really increasing the amount of money spent on social housing this year by \$70 million. There is \$2 billion spent approximately each year on social housing, which comes to \$10 billion over the next five years.

This government has no apologies to make in that regard. The hon. member knows there are many other programs that are more targeted and more appropriate to those in core need than the co-op program, although this was in many ways an excellent program.

Oral Questions

• (1500)

Mr. Joe Fontana (London East): Mr. Speaker, with a single stroke of a pen this government has terminated the co-op housing program, to which the minister just referred, a fully targeted program which has provided lower and middle income groups secure and affordable housing for 20 years. Currently 164,000 Canadians are on the waiting list for co-ops. Their hopes of ever getting adequate and affordable shelter have been crushed by this government.

Last December this minister promised the co-op housing people \$6 million for their co-op housing. Yesterday, he completely cancelled the program.

I ask this minister, and this finance minister, will they reinstitute this program that has served Canadians so well in the past 20 years?

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, no, we will not at this time. There are other programs that are more directly appropriate for people who are in core need, as the hon. member knows.

He should remember, as well, that when it comes to social housing, this government has consistently spent more money each year on social housing and we are continuing to do so. I remind him that the last time his party was in office in 1983-84, \$1.2 billion was spent on social housing. We have spent \$100 million plus each year since that time and our commitment continues.

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SCIENCE COUNCIL OF CANADA

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—St. Clair): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister.

The Science Council has been killed under orders from the Prime Minister's Office. It cannot be because of costs, because it costs so little. Can it be, I ask through you, Mr. Speaker, that the Science Council would look at the so-called prosperity agenda which promised more training, more education, more technology, more research and development, and identify it for what it is, a crack and a scam?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker. In point of fact, as my hon. friend might perhaps know, the Science Council has, of course, done very good work. In the last number of years pursuant to