

Oral Questions

number of forums. We have also been in constant touch with the family.

I would like to be able to do more and we will continue to do everything we can. We are continuing to pursue this as a case that requires our very great sympathy, our concern and our action.

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UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. Maurizio Bevilacqua (York North): Mr. Speaker, at a time when 400,000 young Canadians are unemployed, the best this government can do is to offer the "Learning Well—Living Well" consultation paper asking Canadians for ideas.

The Economic Council made this observation in its annual report. I quote: "The problem of unemployment is cumulative. Young workers get trapped in a cycle of short-term, seasonal, insecure jobs and unemployment insurance dependencies and are unable to break away from it".

I ask the minister of employment this question. When is this government going to start learning well so that young Canadians can start living well?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Monique Vézina (Minister of State (Employment and Immigration) and Minister of State (Seniors)): Mr. Speaker, for the past two years we have defended and promoted in this House an employment strategy requiring intensified training. We have put in place partnership mechanisms with a view to achieving these objectives. Any delay that ensued must be blamed on the hon. member and members opposite who spent a whole year obstructing the passage of Bill C-21.

What we are trying to do with the programs we have, as quickly as possible, is give the requisite training to workers to prepare them for market globalization.

[*English*]

Mr. Maurizio Bevilacqua (York North): Mr. Speaker, if this government is serious about establishing a learning culture, then it must understand that education is a key

component. In order for our young people to obtain an education, it must be accessible.

I ask the minister this question. Why has this government chosen to impose a 3 per cent tax on student loans? Why this attack on students who are in greatest need?

Hon. Robert de Cotret (Secretary of State of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I have answered this question time and time again in the House and I will repeat the same answer.

This program is some 27 years old. It is a program that has helped thousands of Canadians through the years. It is a program that we intend to maintain, but obviously it is a program we have to review. The review is under way with the provinces and we expect to be able to propose a document to this House in the next few months.

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BANKRUPTCY

Mr. Pat Nowlan (Annapolis Valley—Hants): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the minister responsible for ACOA and I think the acting minister is in the House. I hope it is the Minister of Public Works, who I know will be fully aware of the situation involving the Keddy's hotels and motor inns in Atlantic Canada. On November 1, Keddy's is meeting in a bankruptcy proceeding and unless there is some bridge financing at least and some understanding with ACOA officials the whole situation will go into receivership. Over 1,000 to 1,200 direct employees at 11 motels will go down the drain.

Knowing the situation, knowing quite a bit of history of Keddy's, going back to the Hotel Nova Scotia in 1984-85, I am wondering if non-partisan, objective support from all sides would be a catalyst. Could the minister have his officials meet the Keddy's interests so that this situation will not end up in dire headlines, let alone the spin-off effect of all the other little industries that depend on this situation.

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate very much the interest of my colleague opposite. He is right, most of us from Atlantic Canada are aware of the situation regarding Mr. Keddy's organization. He suffered from severe competition. He is in a difficult position. I spoke with him this morning. I