

Mr. Speaker, the day after the Cabinet was sworn in, they appointed a Minister of State (Youth) (Mrs. Champagne). Mr. Speaker, as one Member who made every effort to ensure that the Ministry of State for Youth would be a reality within the Government, I must admit I was very disappointed. I almost regret I was instrumental in providing a position for the present incumbent. Mr. Speaker, the present incumbent at the Minister of State (Youth), who always played starring roles during her professional career, now has a very minor role indeed. What influence did the Minister of State (Youth) have on preparations for this Budget? It is obvious she had no say in it whatsoever. I say that because I am sure she is far more concerned about young people than her colleague, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson), who simply shouldered her aside.

Mr. Speaker, one look at the figures is enough. Worse, in a year specifically dedicated to youth, when we talk about participation and development, development of the individual, Canada's educational system is under-financed. Access to post-secondary education is becoming increasingly restricted.

Perhaps in keeping with the Government's approach, Mr. Speaker, the situation is such that only rich people will be able to afford to attend college or university. Consider the huge number of young Canadians who can no longer afford post-secondary education. Look at the discouragingly high number of post-secondary student drop-outs, and what does the Government do? Mr. Speaker, 300,000 out of 540,000 unemployed youths did not even finish high school, 300,000 young people who do not have the vocational training required to land a full-time job. What measures did the Minister of Finance advocate? Sure enough, they will swell the ranks of permanent welfare cases, and that is unacceptable, Mr. Speaker, in a society which keeps bragging about equal opportunity for everybody.

Mr. Speaker, self-development is the current buzz word, but I fail to see the rationale behind the International Youth Year three themes—Participation, Development, Peace—because they are but words and all we can see is those lofty themes reproduced on posters. That is why I was concerned when I heard the Minister of Finance talk about people getting a \$500,000 capital gains tax exemption. Mr. Speaker, precious few young Canadians stand to gain anything there, except perhaps the sons and daughters of rich parents who will end up with a fortune. Who else? And what about the economic and social impact of unemployment? Here again, Mr. Speaker, we saw the Minister of Finance shirk all responsibility. Mr. Speaker, I hesitate to give unconditional support to Bill C-51, I hesitate because the priorities are wrong.

Peace is one of this year's three themes and yet, Mr. Speaker, the Department of National Defence has been practically untouched. Mr. Speaker, why display those slogans and convene seminars and conferences on the three themes if we are not going to do anything positive? That brings to mind the hundreds of young Canadians I met recently, most of them

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quite disillusioned. They had been promised the moon, but the sad reality is that they now find out that, as far as the Minister of Finance is concerned, a just society is one where the rich get richer, where people who are well-off do not miss an opportunity to do even better, and where the ordinary man invariably gets stuck with the bill. This Budget which has been brought down and which will justify part of this money, this borrowing authority, is a "fat cats" budget, Mr. Speaker. You know full well that in fact it will please the haves in our society, and that 25 per cent of the Canadian society have been totally ignored by that Budget, the younger generation has been completely overlooked, and in that sense I am very much disappointed.

I certainly can speak of that Government's new management initiatives, Mr. Speaker. Not only they have the gall to tell the unemployed: We let you turn to the private sector, do not count on us, we are not responsible and we do not want to hear from you. Worse than that they tell them: We find that your unemployment insurance benefits are a bit generous, and we will set up a committee with people from the private sector. Not a committee made up of unemployed people, Mr. Speaker. Above all, do not bother about them. This is what the Minister of Finance told them. Not only shall we not try to find jobs for you, but the unemployment insurance scheme is too generous, we are going to cut down on your benefits. Such is the message relayed by the Minister of Finance to the unemployed, a message of despair. He is telling them: You are the scape goats in our society. How can anyone with a minimum of social conscience, Mr. Speaker, accept such a miserable message to one and a half million unemployed across the land? They are told: Trust us, but, better still, trust the large corporations. Trust the rich. We are going to give them more. We are going to give them a \$125,000 bonus, and they will look after you. Possibly, Mr. Speaker, with that \$125,000 bonus, which is the deduction on half a million dollars in capital gains, they might hire a maid, and perhaps also a gardener. But this is about all it will afford to pay. Most of it will not benefit job creation. Even today, Alain Dubuc stated in *La presse*, and God knows he is not a politically involved columnist but a perceptive economic observer, this was a gift to the rich with very little chances for employment creation.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that my colleagues opposite, who have been commissioned to go and sell that Budget with their eyes closed and their ears shut to criticism—

Mr. La Salle: No, no!

Mr. Lapierre: The Minister of Public Works (Mr. La Salle) says: No, no, no. We even have one of his colleagues, his colleague from Lotbinière (Mr. Tremblay), who showed so much zeal that, being unable to convince his constituency association chairman with words, went as far as breaking his nose in two places!

Mr. La Salle: On the Budget?