

except by doing? We have had federal programs such as Opportunities for Youth, the Local Improvements Program, Canada Works and Summer Canada. Each of these has indicated in a small way what can be done if there is a will.

By a national youth policy, I do not mean a blizzard of individual youth projects, many of which to date have helped mainly middle and upper-income youth. Such a policy is urgent because of the changed position of young people in our society. It is generally agreed that major institutions for youth, our schools, have somehow been unsuccessful in meeting the needs of young people.

I was a member of the parliamentary task force on employment in the eighties. We travelled across the country. At our hearings we heard from employers, service clubs, labour and educators. They told us that young people coming out of our schools have not been trained to do the jobs which are or will be available. To a large extent, their education has been designed in a vacuum, designed in the offices of provincial departments of education or individual school divisions. There has been virtually no consultation with employers, labour and educators. I am talking about the teachers in the classroom. The last to be asked what they need and what they should have are the students.

We need a great deal of decentralization, rethinking and consultation. We need to involve our young people in not only identifying the problems but in helping to work out solutions. We know from experience that our young can take innovative approaches. We need to have them help us design programs that will work so that they can have the work they want and need in the next few years.

How can we apply a national youth policy? I am not talking about a policy designed by Ottawa, the Department of Employment or any other Department. I am talking about a policy worked out in consultation between the federal and provincial governments, labour, management, educators and our young people. If we are going to adopt a national youth policy, and we need one, we should first hold a national conference, bringing together not just representatives from the federal, provincial and municipal governments, but representatives of our young people as well as labour, management and educators to see the situation that exists. We need local participation and decentralization instead of what we have had up until now—single-minded decisions being made from the top down here in Ottawa.

We need to encourage demonstration projects. I talked earlier about programs we have had in the past, such as Opportunities for Youth and the Local Improvement Program. Some did not work but many were a great success. To my knowledge, an analysis was never made of the projects which were funded to see which worked, which did not work and whether those that worked could be used as examples.

In Manitoba, when Governor General Schreyer was Premier, for the first time in any province we had the development of a native teacher training program. It has been a tremendous success. Information as to what occurred in Manitoba was not passed along to the other provinces. Provin-

*The Budget—Mr. Orlikow*

cial representatives were not asked to come to Manitoba to see if they could establish similar programs. We need a series of demonstration projects, funded by governments, so that young people can decide what are the local issues and work on them. It would show what young people can do and would deepen the public perception of the kinds of programs that are needed.

We need resource centres in Canada. Cities would assist in the collection and dissemination of information on projects, the evaluation of projects, development of the recommendations for legislative and policy changes as experience would demonstrate. Our program for youth should be pluralistic and decentralized. You do not have to be an expert to know the tremendous problems that are not being dealt with and in which our young people could be involved. It would not only create employment for them, but begin to solve some of the major problems which are being ignored.

Let me illustrate with a couple of examples. In recent years a number of very important studies have been done. They indicate that because of inaction and shortage of funds from the federal and provincial governments, our forest industry, one of our major industries in terms of employment and providing foreign exchange, is in tremendous danger. Unless steps are taken immediately, 25 years from now there will probably be 50,000 to 60,000 less people working in this industry. We need a major reforestation program. This is not a wild-eyed dream. Franklin Delano Roosevelt did this in the United States in the 1930s in the midst of the Depression. If he could do it then, we can surely do it in Canada in the 1980s.

We need to clean up the environment. Our environment is being degraded every day in every way. Our water, air and soil are being destroyed. It is easy for the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Caccia) to go to the United States and say that they must do something about acid rain. We have Sudbury, Thompson and Flin Flon. I am sure there are thousands more examples where Canadian industry is creating major problems and is a major factor in the destruction of our lakes, our soil and our air. How better could we tackle this problem than by putting our young people to work.

● (1720)

Those are a couple of ideas that I have, Mr. Speaker, but let me give one more. In the centre or core area of every city in Canada we have homes that are 50, 75 or 100 years old. When they were built people did not know anything about insulation. They use much more irreplaceable energy than they ought to and they need to be upgraded, insulated and retrofitted. Insulating a house is not expensive and it does not take highly trained people to do it. There is not a better project for a major objective than the insulation of our old homes.

There is a great deal to be done in the country and we need the will to do it. Unfortunately, the Budget indicates that the Government has neither the will nor the desire to deal with the major problem of unemployment among our young people with which we are faced at the present time.