

*Supply*

until the government decides that it is not good enough to put its head in the sand waiting for the Americans to come along with a solution. Also it is not good enough to deny the fact that there is a problem.

Until the government decides that there is a problem, that there are not enough jobs or a climate for investment, we will continue to have the problem faced by the youth of the country; that is, there will not be a sufficient number of jobs for people between the ages of 16 and 24. Also we will continue to have an unemployment rate of 18 per cent. The minister should hang his head in shame.

**Mr. Tousignant:** What suggestions do you have?

**Mr. Crombie:** I hear a noise over there about suggestions. I have some suggestions. My first suggestion deals with the kinds of jobs which should be related to the educational system. This is a 15-minute debate and I only have four minutes remaining, so I will make five suggestions. The first is that the minister ought to consider a change in his understanding of the educational system so that there is a more flexible system of training. Last Friday he brought forward and tabled a training bill. Of course, we will support that bill which deals with training, particularly because the minister and his department have spent so long considering the matter. First there was Bill C-23 and then there was Bill C-67. They are still on the Order Paper, and now we have a new bill. We have not been holding it back; it is the minister. We need to bring back the link between training and work which was lost in the 1960s and 1970s. I might add that it was never brought back together by the federal ministry when it funded all the community colleges in the country. It is time that it was.

Second, we need an apprenticeship program so that there are more in-service rather than pre-service programs. We need to expand, not simply nudge along a little, counselling services in the country. If the minister brings forth anything on counselling he will do good because counselling has failed every neighbourhood, town, village and city in Canada. The link between work and training has been lost as educational systems and schools built up bureaucracies.

Third, there must be co-operation between the federal government and the provinces and municipalities. I should like to refer to an example of what can be done. A certain municipality, a fishing village in Denmark, was faced with a situation where it had some unemployed people. Rather than pay out the amount it would pay for the jobless, it created various jobs. Rather than import the boxes needed to pack fish, it began to hire people between the ages of 18 and 23 to manufacture the boxes. Then they became involved in repairing furniture and toys for schools, particularly for kindergarten classes. They did carpentry work, gardening, recycling projects, painting, and odd jobs; they worked with old people and so on. The point I want to make is that the national government of Denmark did not become involved in the actual operation of the program. It provided some funds which allowed local talent to figure out the best way to do it. This is why time and again we on this

side of the House have insisted it does not matter how much money the minister says he will put into a program, the billions in figures which he uses or how many announcements he makes. He can do it only by co-operation with the provinces and the municipalities. The training bill which he brought forward will only be used in a useful way if the government understands that it cannot be done from Ottawa. The only thing Ottawa can do well is to create an environment within which those who can do the job do it.

Finally, if the government and the minister would announce less, think a little more and try to co-operate a little more, not only would other people trust him but even the minister's department would begin to trust him. Then he would not have to run around trying to figure out where to put ombudsmen to look after their mistakes. We have a situation now where the minister no longer has the support of his own department. He needs to do something soon to re-establish his credibility in the country and certainly in the House. Those of us who represent the rest of the country look forward with anticipation to the debate on the training bill.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Claude-André Lachance (Rosemont):** Mr. Speaker, I listened with great interest to the proposals made by the previous speaker, especially concerning in-service or on-the-job training and apprenticeship programs, and I shall be elaborating presently on those very valid proposals which are, in fact, included in the recommendations of the report prepared by the Special Committee on Employment Opportunities for the '80s, under the title "Work for Tomorrow."

First of all, Mr. Speaker, I may point out that it is fairly obvious our present economic situation cannot but have a disastrous effect on youth employment. When the unemployment rate rises among the labour force as a whole, logically, and unfortunately, there is a directly proportional increase in unemployment among young people. In fact, now that the unemployment rate for young people up to the age of 25 revolves around 16.5 per cent, which is twice the national average, it is entirely appropriate that the House should have an opportunity to discuss this extremely important subject.

Not long ago, a Montreal newspaper, following a recommendation by the Quebec Minister of Education that the passing mark in schools be raised from 50 to 60 per cent, reported that young people who were protesting against the minister's recommendation were doing so simply because they had lost confidence in the system and therefore did not see why they should make the required effort at school to obtain a diploma in order to get a job, since they assumed no jobs would be available anyway. I think all this is a reflection of the difficult times we are experiencing today, and that the passing mark debate in Quebec schools—which has a direct connection with today's subject—demonstrates how distressed these young people are about the economic situation and especially about prospects for employment once they finish their schooling. That being said, I believe we must see these things within their