

respond to this question and not my third question when I will not have a chance to reply.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Whatever the Prime Minister may think of the intensively personal gesture of Senator Jacques Hébert, the Senator has accomplished two purposes. He has focused the attention of the country on the deep crisis for our young people, and second, he has made it clear to the young people of Canada that they are going to have to fight for themselves unless the Government displays a commitment to them. When is the Prime Minister going to give some concrete evidence of a commitment on the part of the Government of Canada to young people who desperately need hope and opportunities for a courageous future in Canada?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition made two points. He referred to a deep crisis for young people. The headline in the *Toronto Star* yesterday was: "Lots of Summer Jobs are Waiting for Students"—

Mr. McCurdy: That's just in Toronto.

Mr. Mulroney: What? Are you opposed to jobs for Torontonians? The fact that they are from Toronto does not make them less Canadian.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An Hon. Member: You're a phony, Mulroney.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Mulroney: The second point to which my Right Hon. friend referred is that young people will have to fight for themselves. Young people have had a terrible fight. From 1980 to 1984, 285,000 jobs were lost for youth. In the 18 months since we became the Government, 50,000 new jobs have been created. They will have to fight, but with the Government fighting for them.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister does not seem to understand that whatever recovery we have had has not been evenly shared across Canada. There are parts of the country that are having a very, very bad time.

[Translation]

GOVERNMENT POSITION

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Here is my supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Apparently, we will be back in the House on April 7. Is Canada's youth supposed to wait until the House resumes sitting after Easter to find out

Oral Questions

what your Government intends to do for the youth of this country?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think this was made very clear by the Minister concerned today.

An Hon. Member: No program.

Mr. Mulroney: I am trying to answer . . . Some important action was announced today that will promote job creation, something we have been doing with substantial success during the past eighteen months. No one is trying to minimize the seriousness of unemployment among our young people. That is why we have been so active in this area, and I think that today's initiative with the Minister of State for Youth and the Minister of Employment and Immigration will further promote the creation of jobs for our young people.

[English]

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PROGRAMS

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, as the Prime Minister knows, we are dealing with a very serious situation here. It is the case that more jobs have been created for young people in recent months, and that is encouraging.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Broadbent: It is also true that the most recent figures show that there are 485,000 young people out of work. That is a national tragedy. The Prime Minister has had access to those figures, and he promised in the House on March 3, March 11, March 21, and yesterday that there would be a program of action before the end of this month. Why has the Prime Minister not delivered on that promise?

● (1425)

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend refers to the tragedy of youth unemployment, and I do not disagree. We inherited the situation, and we have been able to reduce youth unemployment by two full percentage points in just about 18 months. It is not perfect, but it is a major step forward. Were one to do that every 18 months, one would make a serious dent in that tragedy to which my hon. friend refers. We will continue to do so by initiatives such as those we announced today.

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, I say to the Prime Minister that the initiatives, as he described them, announced today simply consist of a promise to study recommendations which have been made by a Senate task force and by the New Democratic Party. That is not action. That is an argument by the Government for delaying action.

Young people want jobs. They want programs now. Since the Prime Minister is aware of the situation faced by young