

Supply

going to be caused among the colleges and universities, among students who will not be able to get jobs this summer. He did not say anything about the cutbacks in transfer payments to the post-secondary domain which have increased the pressure on tuition rates right across the country. Nor did he say anything about the GST that makes books more expensive. Nor did he say anything about the surcharge on student loans.

He did not say anything that was helpful to students. He did not say anything that was consistent with this rhetoric that this government has adopted about education. He did not say anything that would help students, as I think by now students can be confident will never be forthcoming. This government will not take on its responsibility.

The motion before us is a good one that my party will most certainly support. It says:

That this House call upon the government to implement immediate measures to alleviate the devastatingly high rate of unemployment among Canadian youth.

Something should have been done a long time ago.

An hon. member: Oh, oh.

Mr. McCurdy: Mr. Speaker, I just heard this gentleman here who purports to be the Minister of State for Finance. I am sure he is going to drag every bug and fly into his empty skull if he opens his mouth too much, particularly when he insists in this House in broadcasting flat out lies. I think his problem is that he hates to hear the truth. This, after all, was the arrogant minister who stood in this House and said that any students can get jobs when they want to.

• (1210)

I want to tell this minister on behalf of the students for whom he claims to speak that he speaks not a word for them any more than the rest of his government speaks for them. The issue is the sanctimonious behaviour of

this government, which insists on going along its way in complete disregard to the needs of real people.

This country is being torn apart by the insensitivity of this government. Its future is being threatened by the insensitivity of this government. Its youth is being sacrificed as a result of the insensitivity of this government, and from the Minister of State for Finance the youth is being insulted by the insensitivity of this government.

The claim that is laid here before this House with respect to this motion is a relatively simple one: "Go back and re-examine", it says to the government, "what it is doing faced with a crisis of youth unemployment". It says that this government should attempt to do what it can to make it possible for young people to get jobs this summer.

The situation can be dramatized in terms of statistics. Among the larger employers of students we have IBM which hired 875 students last summer. It will only hire 760 this year. Bell Canada, which hired 1,195 students last year, will hire only 500 this year.

The fact is that now we have a situation in which not only has government cut its funding for the creation of youth employment. We have an ever increasing pressure on the jobs that have been in the past available to students by the great mass of adults trying to seek jobs.

For example, in the city of Windsor where quite a number of student jobs are created by the municipal government, they have had to concede that some jobs formerly designated for students must now go in a certain proportion to the adult unemployed.

In Windsor—I guess I would have to choose to cite Windsor as a typical example of a city that has benefited from this government's policies—no retail store jobs are going to be available this summer because one-third of them have already closed. We have none of those usual jobs being produced in the tourism area in Windsor that would normally be produced to allow students to get jobs in the summer.

Our position is very simple. At the very least, this government should return to a level of funding for the