

system to and on Prince Edward Island is operating. We are, however, in the process of acquiring new airport facilities, a step in the right direction, I might add. What improvements that are being made to our transportation systems to and on Prince Edward Island are slow in coming, and few and far between. I hope that in the near future attention will be given to this matter of such great importance to Prince Edward Island and its industries.

● (2150)

As a member concerned about the plight of the farmer, the fisherman, and the small businessman of my constituency, it upsets me to see interest rates continuously increasing. Such increases are a disincentive to the expansion of small business and industry and one must sympathize with a person who is already in business and who has a loan with a floating interest rate—always up, it seems. This government will have to do everything within its power to bring interest rates down to a reasonable level.

I have spent the last few moments speaking of matters and issues which are of major concern to Malpeque and Prince Edward Island. Now I would like to continue for just a few moments addressing you on a subject which has always been and always will be of the utmost importance to me, that is, the role of the youth in Malpeque, in Prince Edward Island, and in Canada. The youth of this country are of special interest to me. I have a very deep and abiding concern for our young people. They have so much to contribute; it is a shame to see a great deal of this energy and potential going to waste. What do you tell a youngster about the kind of job he can expect to have when he leaves school, Mr. Speaker? It saddens me to see the disillusionment of our young people because they are not able to find meaningful work.

Bitterness and frustration are evident among many of our young Canadians who finish school and are unable to find jobs. We spend millions of dollars educating our youth and the only opportunity many of them get to utilize their skills is in completing UIC forms. It is time we re-arranged our priorities. We must start spending more assisting private enterprise and small business, thus creating an environment where more jobs are available.

It pleased me to see that the Speech from the Throne proposed the passing of legislation which would encourage small business and private enterprise, as well as the creation of a youth employment secretariat. It is important that the youth of Canada have faith in the political and parliamentary process of our country. It is important we continue to endeavour to provide a favourable climate in which our youth can live and work, for only then will we be able to keep our young people at home, only then will we be able to participate in the continuing development of Canada. In the past, Prince Edward Island has had problems keeping its youth at home after they finish their formal schooling. In the words of the Speech from the Throne we need to assist all individual Canadians, but especially our youth, in "building a stake in our country".

#### *The Address—Mr. Gass*

I should like to make mention of an issue which concerns the whole of the Canadian populace, in particular the youth. Because of my long involvement with young people and my deep and abiding concern for their welfare, I feel it is incumbent on governments, both federal and provincial, to establish an educational program advising Canadians on the more recent information about marijuana and other drugs and their adverse effects. I feel the lack of education is the crux of the whole drug problem, and that such an educational program, once established, will go a long way in helping our young people to understand the problems that can arise from the adverse usage of drugs.

I should like to go on for just a moment to deal with another matter which, in an indirect fashion, concerns young Canadians. If we are to expect our youth to have faith in our country's political and parliamentary process, if we are to expect our young people to have respect for those in positions such as we hold as members of Parliament, we are, first of all, going to have to show a little more respect for each other as we sit here in the House of Commons debating and making decisions on matters that concern our country.

It appalls me, Mr. Speaker, to witness the lack of respect that is present as individual members address the House. It may be difficult for some members to refrain from showing ignorance and lack of manners, but I do wish they would begin to show some politeness. Now that these sessions are being broadcast across the country for all to see, Canadians are able to view what they could only read about before—the thumping and pounding, the catcalls and the rude remarks. Is this how we endeavour to see that our youth respect the institutions we represent? As this first session of the Thirty-first Parliament continues I sincerely hope many of you will take a good, long look at yourselves and your actions here in the House, not only for the sake of the youth in the country but for your own sakes as well.

As many before me have stated, ours is a new Parliament facing an enormous challenge. Let us endeavour to live up to the expectations that Canadians have for us. And, Mr. Speaker, may we not disappoint them.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Yanakis:** Mr. Speaker, I seek the indulgence of the House as I have only three or four minutes left. Could I call it ten o'clock and make my speech tomorrow afternoon?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Does the House agree?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The House agrees.

[*English*]

Does the House agree to my calling it ten o'clock? The hon. member will begin his speech tomorrow.

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.