

*Opportunities for Youth Program*

certain that project announcements are made early in another year. We know that some of the YMCA projects such as Echo 71 have been turned down and this was a vital and well thought-out project.

Mr. Speaker, we also fear, as do the other opposition parties, that perhaps a good deal of the money will go to the wise boys on the inside, those who have the inside track. I do not think, with the kind of procedure we have seen this year and the kind of rush to award hush money for kids, that we can seriously expect anything else.

• (2:30 p.m.)

I conclude by saying that the students have responded magnificently. We knew that they would respond and that they would respond imaginatively and with a great deal of initiative. Will the government please consider responding, in its turn, to the students?

**Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière):** Mr. Speaker, the Secretary of State (Mr. Pelletier) is a joker. He mentions certain words which the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) said last March 16, and I quote:

—that we believe that they are well motivated in their concern for the disadvantaged;—

That is true!

—that we have confidence in their system of values.

Mr. Speaker, I need hardly say that these remarks recalled by the hon. Secretary of State are correct. But it is just as true that the system of values of students and young people is not that of the government, and the proof is on page 3 of the press release of the hon. Secretary of State, and I quote:

There is something contagious about the idealism of youth.

How marvelous!

Nevertheless, if public funds are to be used to meet this idealism, a number of government requirements must be satisfied.

Well, what are those government requirements? The Prime Minister has said that young people have an excellent scale of values but the policy of the government consists in asking them to initiate projects, to show enthusiasm and generosity. Besides, that is exactly what they do. The government has been unable to create any jobs since it came to power whereas our young people have found 148,000 within three weeks. That is not where the problem is. It is in the financing.

[Translation]

I should not like to take up the House's time unduly, but a remark of paramount importance must be made. The total Opportunities for Youth program budget is \$14.7 million, of which \$5 million is to be attributed to the province of Quebec. Now, Quebec students have submitted more than 2,485 projects. And how much is available to meet these needs? Five million dollars?

It means that the government, when indulging in propaganda pandering to public opinion was merely performing a farce. It means that the budget established by the government curbs the enthusiasm, the generosity and the initiative of young people who must continue tightening their belts, since it attributes only \$2,200 for the implementation of each project in Quebec.

[Mr. Rose.]

The amounts allocated to projects from other provinces are just as ridiculous. This is absolutely unfair. It is a farce that cannot be tolerated.

There is a problem in the field of employment in Canada; young people are quite willing to help build their country, to help fight pollution and to dedicate themselves body and soul to this task. But after two pages of political gags, the government sets a limit, as stated at the top of the third page of the ministers statement. Despite the quality of the projects, the generosity of our young people and the obvious needs, some limit will have to be established because of other government requirements.

In the very first pages of its statement, why has the government sought to amuse the public by pointing out the existence of a so-called jurisdictional conflict between Quebec and Ottawa, if it was not to make them forget the financial limits it was imposing?

In our view, it is dishonest, on the one hand, to create enthusiasm and to appeal to the generosity of our young people, and, on the other hand, to strangle this enthusiasm, to dilute their efforts and to prevent them from making any progress.

That is the same as saying—even if this brings a smile to the faces of some government members—that Canada's number one problem has nothing to do with need, labour, ideas, enthusiasm nor generosity. It cannot be said that young people do not love their country, but they are smothered by the lack of financial means because the government systematically refuses to make them available. The government not only does a disservice to those young people but it deludes them, since it is in the pay of financiers.

This is why I say that this statement is nothing but a clever political scheme and a foul trick, because the minister is a joker.

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[English]

**HOUSE OF COMMONS**

TRIBUTES TO LEADER OF NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY ON RETIREMENT—SUSPENSION OF EVENING SITTING

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to make a suggestion to the House in connection with the sitting later today. As a prelude to that suggestion I should like to draw to the attention of the House that the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands (Mr. Douglas), the Leader of the New Democratic Party, will be honoured tonight in Ottawa by his followers who are meeting in this city to choose a successor to the distinguished gentleman.

While many of us will be absentee well-wishers, it is still worth mentioning that this recognition of the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands is well deserved because of his long service to this House, interrupted by very long service as premier of Saskatchewan, and because of the service that he has rendered to the country as a party leader. We want him to know as he is