

*The Address—Mr. Gourde*

values and the disruption of social structures, it is very good to see in the Speech from the Throne that the Canadian Government intends to show leadership and support the efforts of young people who want and rightly so to become full fledged citizens. We are therefore very happy, and young people will certainly be happy to learn that a Minister of State for Youth will be appointed, which shows our political will to give priority to matters concerning our young people.

However, we have to admit that in the past the Government of Canada has taken many generous and often efficient steps to assist young people. Several departments, especially the Department of Employment and Immigration, the Secretary of State, and the Department of National Defence have each in turn introduced programs in various fields: training, skills, labour, the voluntary sector, exchanges, leisure, amateur sport, etc. Finally, young people were at a loss, confronted with numerous programs and administrative problems which often resulted in a lack of response to the programs made available to them.

By setting up a Ministry of State for Youth, the Government hopes to remedy those deficiencies. The first objective of the ministry will surely be to consolidate, coordinate, and promote all programs under its responsibility.

There can no longer be any doubt that the Government is serious about youth employment, with \$1 billion to be injected to help young Canadians to acquire new skills and find a job. The Government had to take immediate steps to restore the confidence of our young people. Several measures are under consideration. The Speech from the Throne suggests some important ones, more especially the establishment of a National Voluntary Service. Launched in 1968 in a speech delivered by the Hon. Gérard Pelletier, then Secretary of State, this initiative has since been considered favourably by Members of Parliament. On the other hand, the interest shown in the Katimavik program which has been quite successful among the young people sent in all Canadian provinces where they do some useful work in the community for nominal rather than financial earnings leads us to anticipate the success of the National Voluntary Service. However, Parliament should be careful in implementing this service and to this end should pursue goals that fully meet both the economic needs of young Canadians and their requirements for work experience which should be compatible with their skills, so that everything does not stop with the termination of their service period and so that they may easily resume their normal place on the labour market.

● (1600)

The Canadian Government will offer young Canadians who are eager to know more about their country something similar to the Eurailpass system which is available in Europe. The success of the Hospitality Canada Program has shown that our youth is interested in this country.

To sum up in a non-limiting way, the Throne Speech announces the appointment of a Minister of State for Youth, a \$1 billion program to help young Canadians acquire new skills and find jobs, besides the other measures I have just listed.

Mr. Speaker, quite a number of measures will be implemented for the benefit of farmers, small and medium businessmen, homeowners, as well as law reform. It is my view that over the next few days my colleagues will have an opportunity to stress those specific aspects of the Throne Speech, and certainly in a 20-minute speech it would be difficult to recapitulate that legislative menu which is quite substantial.

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Mulroney) was stunned by so many initiatives to deal with the current circumstances. And I am sure this House is anxious to hear whatever positive and intelligent reaction he will indicate in his speech. All the initiatives that were announced by His Excellency The Governor General merely make up the framework chosen by the Liberal Government to promote the development and security of Canadians.

This Government is offering Canadians the means—and I am reminded of what our well-known entertainer Jean-Marc Chaput says, that the heart is an engine while the mind is a brake—this Government is offering the means to achieve our national goals, but the key to their success is the wholehearted support of Canadians. As far as I am concerned, I have Canada at heart and I will work wholeheartedly for the successful implementation of those initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to second the motion put forward by the Hon. Member for London-West (Mr. Burghardt) and support the Throne Speech delivered by His Excellency The Governor General.

[English]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** According to the rules of the House, the Chair must ask whether there are Hon. Members who are seeking to ask questions at this point.

**Some Hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Brian Mulroney (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I will have more to say with regard to the Speech from the Throne tomorrow.

On motion of Mr. Mulroney the debate was adjourned.

On motion of Mr. Evans the House adjourned at 4.04 p.m.