

A great deal of energy is wasted every year because our young people from 18 to 24, who have had more schooling than earlier generations, are unemployed and do not produce. If the present production system was soundly and realistically financed, it would be possible to achieve all these objectives.

To further production and provide more well-being to all Canadians, the government should agree to the motion introduced by the hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Fortin), in order to support total demand through increased purchasing power, especially in the hands of the people who need it more in our society.

During this debate, the Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. Lang) praised the programs now in operation. He said that we must have faith in the future.

We do have faith in the future, but the programs in force up to now have failed to provide our young people with work which would allow them to earn a living and have the country benefit from their capabilities and their education, which we gave them at the cost of many sacrifices.

● (9:20 p.m.)

[English]

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to speak on this allotted day on the subject of youth unemployment. Subject to certain reservations, I congratulate the Cr ditiste party for bringing this subject before the House for the attention of all Canadians. Although everyone in this House realizes the seriousness of the situation with regard to youth unemployment, it is my intention to make a few remarks on the subject of youth development in this nation of ours which, if it showed serious concern, would overcome the unemployment disease with which we are faced.

This government of ours keeps repeating, with obvious pomposity, that the opposition has been weak in providing alternatives to some of the programs of the government. They have been asking us to provide some ideas to be used in their consideration of policy for the betterment of our nation. But unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, again the government uses meaningless words for political gain, instead of upholding their stand on utilizing Parliament in order to reach the objectives involving the common good of the 22 million citizens, both old and young, of our nation.

On two occasions in the past month I stood in this House and offered common sense ideas which would overcome the unemployment situation with regard to our youth. One one occasion I asked the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Macdonald) if he would consider the reintroduction of special militia training programs similar to the ones introduced in 1961 by the Progressive Conservative government of the day. At that time a series of militia training programs were initiated to overcome the unemployment situation in Canada and, at the same time, to afford a cross-section of our young citizens a training program to assist in the civil defence program which

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held a priority in the thinking of our military minds of the day.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the minister couldn't have cared less and discounted the suggestion which I had offered respectfully and earnestly. All I did was prove the attitude of this government toward the parliamentary system and toward recognizing worth-while ideas or suggestions that happened to come from the official opposition.

In my speech in reply to the Speech from the Throne I suggested the creation of a ministry of youth development which, to my mind and to the minds of many Canadians in this nation, should be treated as a priority. It is so obvious that over the years we have neglected the youth of our country to whom we look for our future leaders. This neglect has brought about our experiencing hostility and rebellion. Instead of that, we could have been achieving a participation and an involvement which in the end would have accomplished the goals of producing a better Canadian nation through the leadership of our youth.

The example of where our Canadian leaders have come from has escaped the attention of our supposed leaders. I refer to the remote areas of our country which continue to be neglected in favour of professorial thinking to the effect that the object of the exercise is to take all people from the remote areas of Canada and throw them into the Montreals, Torontos and Vancouvers. It is strange, to my way of thinking that at the drop of a hat this government can find the moneys that will allow a few of our better athletes to compete in order that a few medals may be won by a few, while the many thousands in the remote areas of Canada who require a few pennies to develop their bodies are left unrecognized. Why do we look for gold medals for a few, when for the same cost we can realize the development of the majority who can contribute to the betterment of our citizens of the future.

Sooner or later, Mr. Speaker, we must realize that the Canadian nation must recognize the value of all our youth. Instead of concentrating in our "one-rut mind" on the idea that those in the more affluent cities can produce the championships that we are looking for, we ought to recognize the value of over-all youth development. Instead of Information Canada, let us establish a "Youth Development Canada". I say, let us not waste the potential of our young people in the remote areas of Canada just because they do not happen to have the advantage of living in the more affluent provinces.

We have had examples of hostility and rebellion in the province of Quebec. We have seen the results of hostility and rebellion; the results were the murder of those who are dedicated to the preservation of our nation. Yet we fail to recognize what we who are Members of Parliament have strived for, the importance of the preservation of our society no matter whether we be French or English or from any other ethnic group of our society.

The majority of Canadians have supported this government in its decisions on the preservation of our federal society. The future of our nation is in our youth. Let us contribute some of the bulk of our affluence to the pre-