

Supply

Through this same direct concern to create jobs and to bridge the tough times, we have also seen a massive investment in retraining. That, Mr. Speaker, is a massive investment in our future. We are teaching people new skills to match new jobs. In 1983 alone, the federal Government will spend over \$1.2 billion in retraining, not the least of which is the \$60 million going into student loans and aid for young people who want to stay in school a little longer and need help to meet the cost.

• (1540)

Today's motion treats youth unemployment as if it were isolated. I hope my comments will put that into a little bit of perspective. The federal Government sees youth unemployment as a particular tragedy. In the April budget an enormous amount of money was dedicated to solving the problem. We targeted over \$200 million to help young people as a special group and to provide direct jobs for them right away. More important, we targeted billions of dollars to renewing our economy and giving young people a chance to look forward to a secure future. Equally important, we targeted hundreds of millions of dollars for skill training and retraining so that people will have the tools to deal with tomorrow's challenges.

That is the message of the April budget, Mr. Speaker. We said that jobs are at the heart of our concern and that we want an economy that will recover in a permanent way. We are boosting those forces in our economy that will make us permanently prosperous.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Questions, comments or debate. The Hon. Member for Fundy-Royal (Mr. Corbett).

Mr. Bob Corbett (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, as usual I listened with a great deal of interest to the contribution of the previous speaker to the debate. I was particularly interested, although not too impressed, with his closing words when he referred to the "heart" of the budget that was recently put forward by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde). Anyone who has read the budget and is knowledgeable in the affairs of the world of finance would realize that the budget does not have a heart. It has no heart at all.

When listening to the Hon. Member it was some time before I came to the conclusion that he was talking about the budget. His opening remarks certainly did not sound as if he were referring to the same document that I and hundreds of thousands of other Canadians were made aware of with the introduction of the budget. The Hon. Member referred to the \$1.5 billion that would be injected into the economy over the next few months but he conveniently neglected to advise the House where that \$1.5 billion was coming from. Mr. Speaker, eventually it has to come from the pockets of the taxpayers of the nation. Taxpayers will end up paying over \$3,000 each for the deficit that the Government has imposed upon them. That is something that is going to be very difficult for them when added to the already overwhelming burden that they shoulder.

The Hon. Member mentioned several items, several projects, several areas that the Government was going to address to see that the economy was stimulated. He neglected several very important areas from the standpoint of our youth and he did

not get around to addressing the problems of youth until his closing remarks. I felt that his speech addressed the plight of the youth of the nation about as much as the budget did, and that is very, very little. He spoke about rebuilding the economy, about giving people hope in time of need. The people who have been talking to me and my colleagues do not feel that the budget imparted a message that gives them any hope.

There are a number of things the Government could have addressed with reference to assistance to our youth population. Just about a year ago I stood in my place in this House and spoke about youth employment. If I recall, the date was around May 6. At that time I said that the unemployment figures of the day, which were in the vicinity of 1.25 million, had been referred to by the Government as being near the peak. The Government anticipated that at the most another 100,000 might be added. In this Party we expressed concern that the figures were inaccurate. Time has taught Canadians a cruel lesson. Over the period of a year we have seen not 100,000 people added to our unemployment rolls but close to 500,000. The real tragedy for the nation is that the people who seem to be hardest hit by the desperate unemployment are our youth. These are the people it seems to be affecting most.

In New Brunswick over-all employment is in the vicinity of 16.1 per cent, or 49,000 people out of a labour force of 305,000. In March, 1983, youth unemployment in New Brunswick was 28 per cent while just a year ago it was 23.2 per cent. It increased by 4.8 per cent over the past year. In my constituency of Fundy-Royal there is general unemployment. Albert County has 18.2 per cent, Kings County and Saint John's County have 12.9 per cent, while Queen's County and Sunbury County have 14.1 per cent.

Over-all unemployment in Canada is 12.6 per cent, and youth unemployment is 21.3 per cent. Unemployment in New Brunswick and Atlantic Canada is higher because of the uncaring attitude taken by the Government over the last number of months. Its policy is not directed toward healing that intolerable situation in my part of the country.

When another 12 months expire the budget will have done nothing to alleviate that unacceptable situation. What it means is that people coming out of school this year will not be able to find a job. That is going to be a very frustrating experience for them. It is going to be a very unpleasant experience to face at a time when knowing their future and having confidence in their future is very important to them.

Last week I had occasion to visit a school in my constituency where grades 9, 10 and 11 were combined in a class. After class the teacher told me that she could only take comfort in the fact that her students are not going to be put into the work force this year as they do not graduate yet. In our area there is just no work available for these young people. She said, Mr. Speaker, "I hope that by the time these young people do graduate the situation will have improved to the point where they can have some hope for their future". Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, despite the fact that I would have liked to have given that woman some assurance that things were going to get