

Supply

program will cost \$5.8 billion, taking inflation into consideration, and their program will cost \$6.8 billion.

• (1620)

That is the problem with the Liberal Party. Yes, we will save a nickel today but we will spend \$1 tomorrow, and the tomorrows of the 1970s are here. The Liberals saved their nickels in the 1970s and they blew them in the 1980s and we are having an awful time dealing with them in the 1990s. We have to change the way things are done. We have to look at these capital costs as investments. It is an investment to have new equipment today.

They talk about chasing submarines, and we all know that at least for the foreseeable future they should not be a problem on our coastline. One of the other things these helicopters will be able to do in conjunction with the frigates they will be operating from is put on a tremendous surveillance program.

A lot of the drugs that come into this country come in through aircraft that fly in through the east and west coast and we do not have the technological capability with the aircraft that we have today to deal with that intercession on either coastline.

If we can intercede and simply catch 10 per cent of the drugs that are coming in on either coastline that is a positive step. All of those drugs, or certainly the majority, end up impacting on young people. That drug interdiction might deal with some of those young thugs who were mentioned earlier who marauded on Yonge Street a year ago. It might put some things in their minds that are appropriate.

Another comment that has been raised by members opposite concerns the Challenge program of the Government of Canada. They say we have reduced it by some \$65 million. We did reduce the budget of one program but it was transferred into other youth initiatives. They talk about the Challenge budget being reduced, and that did happen, but if they look at the over-all budget of the department they will find that we have spent \$750 million on youth initiatives.

When they talk about \$65 million being reduced in one budget I am not going to debate that point, but they have to look at the total budget of the Government of Canada on youth.

They also asked why the government discontinued the work orientation workshops? They were not discontinued but were merged with a new program called START. In that particular program \$45.3 million is being allocated this year.

There are a number of other items I could talk about, such as the Canada Employment Centre for students, the Student Business Loan Program, the business drive for jobs, the federal hiring of students and a number of other initiatives. I look forward to some questions so that I might be able to further expand on these points.

Mrs. Diane Marleau (Sudbury): Mr. Speaker, no matter which side of the House we are on one of the realities that we face when we go back to our ridings, when we look around us, is the fact that we have a generation of young people who are underemployed, unemployed and do not have particularly good prospects.

I had a phone call in my riding office on Friday from some young people. They were explaining to me how a number of their friends, people they had gone to school with, people who had graduated from university, did not have jobs. Those who had anything at all had waitressing jobs and clerical jobs, part-time jobs, but none of the people who had graduated from universities had jobs in the field in which they had studied.

They were very discouraged. One young woman was telling me that it is not just people who are graduating this year who do not have jobs but people who graduated one or two years ago. She had a whole list of people she mentioned to me.

• (1625)

The friends of my children are in the same position as my own children. They are having a great deal of difficulty getting any kind of decent paying employment they can build on for a career.

That is the reality today. We cannot fight over that. We have to say to the Conservatives that as much as they may not always agree with what we say and we may not always agree with what they have done, it is a question of choices.

When we talk about helicopters they may be a good thing but it is perhaps a better thing to consider the lives and futures of our young people and spend those few dollars to help them. We have to remember that we