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make a major contribution to the employment picture for young people. I think we can go beyond that, Mr. Speaker. We have to recognize that we are in special times and special efforts need to be made. I see the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands (Miss MacDonald) in her seat. I think she made a very valuable contribution last week in question period when she said that we should undertake special activities to try to obtain more jobs for young people. I agree with her, so we are putting in place a special communications program for young people. In particular, we are going out to talk to the employers of this country.

Mr. Keeper: But not hire them.

Mr. Axworthy: Well, Mr. Speaker, that is the attitude of the hon. member for Winnipeg-St. James. Does he give it a chance, is he prepared to go back to his own riding and talk to employers door to door, as I have been doing, and tell them that students need their help, will they register their jobs in our employment centre? Oh, no, he does not want that kind of thing. He is prepared to deny it before he even gives us a chance.

An hon. Member: You made the same speech three years ago.

Mr. Axworthy: With that kind of negative attitude, how do hon. members expect us to be successful when we cannot get Members of Parliament like the hon. member for Winnipeg-St. James—

Some hon. Members: Get serious.

Mr. Axworthy: —to go into his own riding and ask employers to make a special effort to ensure there are jobs for students? I do not think the students in his riding are going to be too pleased at his attitude.

I agree with the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands; I think the effort should be made, and we will do our part. We will undertake to see what we can provide in the way of additional jobs in government departments. I will personally undertake to write to major employers across Canada and ask them to re-examine the situation to see what they can do to provide additional jobs. I would ask Members of Parliament on both sides of the House to do the same with business people and employers in their own ridings. I think we have to make a special effort and that we can combine our efforts in this area and show Canadians this is not a partisan issue which divides us. We can show that we are prepared on behalf of young people in this country to work together in seeing what we can do to develop new job opportunities. We have provided a network through our employment centres, and we are prepared to work with Members of Parliament in their own ridings so that we can mount a special campaign to bring in new jobs for young people.

Members of Parliament can go back to their ridings to work with provincial governments, many of whom have cut back in their own job-creation programs. I would point out that we have added to ours; provincial governments have cut back on

theirs. There are two provincial exceptions, and in this connection I would like to compliment the government of Ontario for its budget last week which added a few additional dollars for youth job creation. But many other provinces have cut back. Again, I suggest that Members of Parliament talk to their provincial counterparts in their ridings and ask them for some special effort on the part of their governments, rather than having to suffer these cutbacks. The federal government has made that effort.

● (1630)

We are saying in this debate that there are a number of things the government can do and that members of the opposition can do. They can pass the training bill and hon. members can work with us to provide new recruitment and job placement. We can begin to look at ways in which we can open up the job market for Canadians and develop an economic policy, one that has not fallen into the trap of the orthodoxy of the right. In other words, to cut back on social programs and programs that help people. We have maintained ours and retained them. At the same time we must recognize that we must not have a wild spending spree as advocated by the NDP, which would force up inflation and force up interest rates even higher.

We are trying to do what the Liberal Party has tried to do for generations, and that is to undertake a balanced approach, not one with simple, easy panaceas but one that is based on constructive, rational and useful thinking.

Hon. David Crombie (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be able to participate in this debate with respect to youth unemployment. I was particularly impressed by the speech of my colleague, the hon. member for Lethbridge-Foothills (Mr. Thacker). He dealt with the government's global economic policies, to which I will refer, but I want to talk also about the government's policies with respect to job training. I want to speak about what I consider to be the government's feeble efforts concerning unemployment.

About three or four weeks ago a study was submitted to the government of the province of Ontario and to metropolitan Toronto. This study is entitled "Youth: The Forgotten Generation". The minister and others may be aware of this study. It has to do with skill training and apprenticeship programs in metropolitan Toronto.

It is too early yet for any of the recommendations to be acted upon, but in my opinion this study was important because it clearly identified youth as a group or sector in our society who are suffering far more than we have heretofore understood. We all assumed that certain policies had been carried on by the federal government and by the provincial and municipal governments for a number of years, and we assumed that by and large programs were in place to look after the youth of the country. Therefore, in the natural course of events our youth would be able to enter the labour market and compete well for jobs, not only in this country but throughout the world.