

Supply

road they would have to be replaced by the same kind of contract my hon. friends are now proposing we get rid of.

I want to say one last thing about those helicopters as somebody who represents 4,500 fishermen. The lives of those fishermen, as far as I am concerned, are a priority of the Government of Canada. We must have the proper equipment available to rescue those people when they are at sea. That is a big part of what that helicopter contract is all about. I will not apologize to anybody for standing up and defending a helicopter contract that will ensure we have the best search and rescue equipment available to secure and save the lives of our fishermen when they go to sea.

I do not know if any of my hon. friends have been out on the Atlantic Ocean in the winter. It is a pretty tough place to be. Even in the spring it can be a pretty tough place to be. It is a worth-while expenditure of Canadian dollars to have the best equipment available to safeguard the lives of Canadian fishermen and seamen.

Mr. Duhamel: Mr. Speaker, on point of order. If there is unanimous consent, we could go beyond the 10 minutes. That would give me an opportunity to respond to my friend's concerns with respect to our position on NAFTA and the GST.

Mr. McCreath: Only if I get to respond to him.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Resuming debate. The hon. member for Haldimand—Norfolk for 10 minutes.

Mr. Bob Speller (Haldimand—Norfolk): Mr. Speaker, let me respond to my hon. friend. The fact of the matter is that we will be scrapping the GST. Our leader is probably the only leader in this country who has made commitments. Throughout his long service to this country he has been known as a person to keep his word and his commitments.

In terms of the NAFTA this party will guarantee this country that we not sign a deal that will sell out the country as the Conservative government did. We will also make commitments that if we are going to have free trade we will have access to the American market, unlike this present deal.

It is a pleasure for me to speak today on this opposition motion. This is our second opposition motion in the past

few months. On March 18 we dedicated another supply day to the same issue because we in the Liberal Party believe that youth and the future of our youth depend on this government and all governments to address the economic problems faced by today's youth and create jobs for these people.

A motion at that time condemned the government for policies regarding job creation for youth, post-secondary education and job training, which we stressed at the time had robbed a whole generation of Canadian youth of any opportunity and had given them no hope for the future.

I am proud to represent our party which speaks out on behalf of youth. I am proud to say that in the last three months this party has moved in other ways to help youth in our country.

• (1540)

This party had a youth task force which travelled across the country. It acknowledged the problems facing youth and actually discussed the problems of youth with young people themselves in trying to come to terms with the problems faced by youth.

We heard from all across the country that the main problem facing youth today was unemployment. In fact if we look at the rates across the country right now, youth unemployment is in the neighbourhood of 18 per cent. There are hundreds of thousands of young people with no hope of a job and no opportunity to get the education they need to get that job.

Young people also have other overwhelming concerns. Although as I said they have fears about job security and the change in labour force requirements, there have also been drastic cuts to education. There have been inadequate skills given to cope with this changing global economy. Of greater consequence is that they are now faced with a government which does not seem to recognize or does not seem to come forward with any proposals to deal with these problems.

Chronic youth unemployment and underemployment, as I have said, have demoralized Canadian youth. They call it generation *x*. In fact I would bring that number down because if we follow the book generation *x* essentially deals with youth from age 25 to 35. There are a number of drop-outs in secondary school, in the neigh-