

*Oral Questions*

• (1440)

**PRESENCE IN GALLERY**

**Mr. Speaker:** I hope the House will bear with me. I am going to depart from our usual practice and recognize certain visitors.

I draw the attention of hon. members to the presence in the gallery of a parliamentary delegation from Australia led by the Honourable Peter Walsh, Senator for Western Australia.

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Speaker:** I would like to draw the attention of the House to the presence in our gallery of His Excellency Mr. Jacques Attali, president of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear.

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[*English*]

**YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT**

**Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—St. Clair):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration.

When declaring 1985 International Youth Year, the United Nations warned of the potential for explosions among unemployed and alienated youth. We have had youth disturbances now in Canada—in Toronto, Halifax and elsewhere—to which the Ontario government has responded by initiating an emergency job program for youth.

Is the minister and his government prepared to join with Ontario and other provinces in initiating an urgent program for job creation for youth this summer in order to respond to the deep concern about the potential for a long, hot summer?

**Hon. Pierre H. Cadieux (Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport) and Minister of State (Youth) and Deputy Leader of the Government in the House of Commons):** Mr. Speaker, obviously nobody is pleased with certain developments that have led to violence in this country and other countries around the world. I am sure nobody condones that.

With respect to this government's programs for youth, my hon. friend will admit we have had programs in place for a long time. We are very pleased that the provinces are ready now to do their part in order to help us find jobs for those students during the summer.

**Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—St. Clair):** Mr. Speaker, Manpower Temporary Services indicates the job situation this summer will be the worst since 1982. Meanwhile, this government is spending only 70 per cent as much money now as it was in 1989 for summer youth employment.

With an unemployment rate among youth already at 17.7 per cent and going up this summer, it is more important to have action than rhetoric. Will this government act to introduce an emergency summer program for youth with the urgency it deserves before there is more trouble in this country?

**Hon. Pierre H. Cadieux (Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport) and Minister of State (Youth) and Deputy Leader of the Government in the House of Commons):** Mr. Speaker, the Canadian people agree they prefer action to rhetoric; that is why we are on this side of the House and the hon. member is on the other side.

With respect to statistics, Statistics Canada has indicated recently that students have better chances of finding employment this summer than they had last summer. Notwithstanding that, we have increased the Challenge Program this year as we did last year.

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**UNEMPLOYMENT**

**Ms. Beth Phinney (Hamilton Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, I want to return to the Minister of Employment and Immigration and ask him about unemployment in Hamilton.

The Minister for Science, the ministers who visited Hamilton last week, and the minister of employment himself, have all claimed recently things are looking up and are good in the Canadian steel industry.

There are thousands of unemployed steelworkers in Hamilton and they know the situation is not good. What is the minister prepared to do to help these unemployed steelworkers?