

their best in their individual ridings to acknowledge job-creation programs, such as the Canada Summer Works Program, student employment programs and on-the-job training programs, because they know they work. I would hope that they would join publicly, as they do privately and as they do in their own ridings in many instances, in saying we have problems, we have places to go, there are programs, yes, and if they were in power they would do them better. They are there, let's make them work. They should recognize that that is overstating the case. They are not joining in from time to time in a positive way, not recognizing they are unconsciously creating a feeling of gloom, a feeling of depression within the country. I do not lay all the blame for that thinking on the Opposition. However, they might want to consider that employing young people in satisfying jobs is the prime goal of all Canadians. We all have a job to do. We in this House have opportunities to speak to employers.

● (1630)

I read a statement the other day to the effect that if every employer in Canada would hire just one person, we would not have a problem. The Opposition might join with us in the larger battle of solving the problem of youth unemployment in this country. They can help us carry the message. We should try and convince Canadian employers that it is in their interest, as well as in the interest of young people, to make a concerted effort to train them, to utilize their talents and young minds, giving them the opportunity to grow.

I come back to the Ministry of State for Youth. The Member previously made light of this. It is interesting to note that the province in which I reside has recently mirrored our action. The Minister there is not called a Minister of State in charge of youth employment, but a commissioner for youth. Statistically it looks like Ontario is really on the go. Even in a wealthy province, which has a lot going for it and a good future, despite all the new jobs created—and we are creating new jobs all the time but creating more people to fill those jobs—we still have a specific and special problem with regard to youth unemployment. The Party in power in the Province of Ontario is not a Party to which I belong. It believes it must help solve a relatively new phenomenon in Canadian society and North American society. The problem is not peculiar to Canada. We have to do something extra special to prevent the degrading situation that exists when so many young people are unemployed.

I could recite the statistics relating to the dollars we are utilizing to create employment for our young people. We have the Skills Growth Program. Universities are being upgraded. Colleges have new equipment to train students better. This has not just occurred since we have had a Minister of State for Youth. We have recognized the problem. Those programs began a few years ago. We know that more has to be done.

I again make the exhortation to Canadians to recognize that it is absolutely essential that we find jobs for our young people. It is essential that we are honest with our young people. Young people are the most honest people that I know. They under-

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stand when we say to them: "You have to be prepared to broaden your scope and thinking. You must recognize that if you are trained in this, you may have to try something else for a little while because from point "A" to point "B" may not be a straight line. You may have to make a small detour, but you will get there." Patience, faith, hard work and diligence, all of these so-called old-fashioned qualities that we seem to think have gone are still there. We have to remind young people that they have a part. They are playing that part. They are willing to do that. The different levels of government have to cooperate. After all, the money comes from the same common pot.

The private sector must continue to tell us what we can do to make the job of running an enterprise more profitable so that it can expand and create jobs. We must ask the private sector to join with us in targeting in on youth unemployment. I am a perennial optimist. I know that in our heart of hearts that is the way we feel about things in this country. Canadians, as always, look at difficult problems and find solutions together.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): Are there any questions?

Mr. Crosby: Mr. Speaker, let me say at the outset that I think all Members are in agreement with the comments of the Hon. Member for Thunder Bay-Nipigon (Mr. Masters) with respect to our desire to create new employment and new employment activity for young Canadians. We have a complete consensus in that aim and goal. Where we come into difficulty and dispute is in the methods and means by which we attempt to achieve the goal.

The Member indicated the efforts made by the Government of Canada with respect to the establishment of some 480 student employment centres across Canada. Their hope is to achieve employment for some 333,000 students and young Canadians. That is a laudable goal. We wish the Government could go further and faster.

There are some problems in those employment centres. We saw evidence and reports of that in the press yesterday and again this morning. This morning I heard an interview with an officer of the Department of Employment and Immigration, one Brian Fuhr. He was being questioned about activities at the student employment centres. I was shocked to hear in the course of that interview, presented by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation on a local Ottawa station, that the officers of the Department of Employment and Immigration in these employment centres will not post the jobs for which federal funding has been provided. They will not tell the students what jobs are available. In the student employment centre in Ottawa there are 600 federally-funded jobs available. The officers of the Department will not tell the students what those jobs are so that they can make application for them.

At the same time, it was disclosed that the applicants for these available jobs are selected from the filing system. That particular office is two or three weeks behind in placing names in the filing system so that they could be selected for application for the jobs available.