Supply

We suggested that it was time we took a look at placing a requirement for the manufacturing in Canada of significant components of those products, such as automobiles and other products which are now being imported into Canada. We are not saying we should not import or export, but there must be a requirement to manufacture in Canada some of the parts we use in Canada. If the Government had followed that kind of direction, a significant number of jobs would have been created which would have made it possible for young people to enter the workforce.

(1200)

I am sure the Hon. Member who spoke before me will appreciate that if we had begun to take advantage of the vast agricultural component of our country and had placed a greater emphasis on support for the farmer in his or her attempts to replace the obsolete farm machinery with new machinery in order to be competitive in world terms, we would have created jobs in the farm machinery manufacturing sector. There are a whole series of job-creation projects, both public and private, which could have been and still can be undertaken and which would have opened up 400, 500 or 1,000 jobs for Canadians presently unemployed or entering the workforce for the first time.

We have to restructure our apprenticeship training program, Mr. Speaker. It is absolutely essential that we make it a prerequisite for employers to take on apprentices and train young people in new techniques. Therefore we must begin developing apprenticeship training programs that will allow young people to learn the skills necessary to make them a valuable part of a productive society.

We have to undertake now to look at the need to face up, I think is the right word, to the problem of high interest rates which have bedevilled the Canadian economy. As the Hon. Member who spoke previously has said, and I am sure the Liberals will agree, we are the only people in the House of Commons who consistently demanded from the Government a lower interest rate policy. We have even gone so far as to say that we would be prepared to undertake whatever steps are necessary to achieve that policy.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, there are any number of ways that new jobs can be created. There are any number of ways that we can bring young people into the workforce both temporarily and permanently. There are new ways which have to be looked at of reducing the work week and the work life of people while guaranteeing a decent income. Therefore, I want to move an amendment to the motion, seconded by the Hon. Member for Humboldt-Lake Centre (Mr. Althouse):

That the motion be amended by deleting the period after the word "nation" and adding the following thereafter:

"—and in particular the Government's adoption of the United States interest rate and monetarist policies, thereby reducing employment opportunities for young Canadians."

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): The Chair would rule that this amendment is in order. The debate from now on will

be on the motion and the amendment. We still have a tenminute period for questions and comments.

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Hon. Member for Hamilton-Mountain (Mr. Deans) for giving a speech that was not just a blind litany of mindless criticism. He obviously put some thought into it and gave some alternatives. He went through about four different suggestions for dealing with the problem of youth unemployment, and unemployment in general. He talked about work sharing. I agree that that is an important aspect of dealing with the problem. The Government already provides mechanisms by which work sharing can take place. In my own community there are 64 different companies who use work sharing.

He also talked about having young people and others create projects in their communities to meet the various demands of Canadian society which have not been met by the private or public sector as yet. The Government has programs for doing exactly that, such as the Summer Canada program and the Canada community development projects.

The Hon. Member talked about the importance or major capital projects and how they can provide employment. Housing, transportation and farm machinery are the three examples he gave.

Mr. Deans: You lost one.

Mr. Lang: In the last several Budgets the Government has provided various incentives to stimulate the housing industry. As to transportation, the Crow rate was amended to provide a massive injection of capital for the revamping and modernization of our railway system. Numerous funds have been supplied for upgrading ports. Concerning farm machinery, we all remember that the Government provided assistance to Massey-Ferguson.

Mr. Deans: That is not what I am talking about.

Mr. Lang: Although I agree with many of the suggestions the Hon. Member has made, I guess the point is, how far do you go with increased funding in these areas, and is a limitation imposed by the deficit?

The Hon. Member talked about the apprenticeship training program. I think that is an extremely important area but there seem to be some obstacles to obtaining the co-operative effort needed between business, labour and government to attain an apprenticeship program which will deal with the problems in as effective a manner as we would like. I would ask the Hon. Member whether it is his position that unions should be more receptive to apprenticeship programs, because one of the obstacles is presented by the union movement itself.

Mr. Deans: Mr. Speaker, it is interesting to see how different conclusions can be drawn from different things. The best apprenticeship programs in this country are offered through trade unions, Mr. Speaker. The construction industry runs its own apprenticeship programs. The apprentices who come out of those programs are of the highest quality. They are as good