

implement the program it announced a little more than a month ago.

The Secretary of State this afternoon quoted the Prime Minister as follows:

We are also saying that we intend to challenge them—

The young people,
—to see if they have the stamina and the self-discipline to follow through on their criticism and advice.

Mr. Speaker, I think that phrase of the Prime Minister must now be turned toward him. If I may say it directly to him, I would say that the young people are now saying to you, Mr. Prime Minister—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have to tell the hon. member that he cannot say that, and at the same time I must remind him of the terms of Standing Order 15 which allow an hon. member to comment briefly on a ministerial statement. I think the hon. member is exceeding the limitations prescribed by the Standing Order.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, I do not want to trespass on the good nature of the Chair.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): I presume that your interpretation of "brief" and mine may be somewhat different. To conclude, I would simply say that the young people are saying to the Prime Minister, in his own words, that they have the stamina and the self-discipline. They have accepted the challenge in very large measure, and now they want to see if he has the stamina, if he has the intestinal fortitude, to follow through on their suggestions and their advice. If there is not a response adequate to meet the obvious interest and enthusiasm of young people, if indeed the government has added to the cynicism of youth about its governments, then if there is unrest and disillusionment, even violence on the part of young people this summer—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Some hon. Members: Irresponsible.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): —Mr. Speaker, then we will all know—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): —who it is—

Some hon. Members: Sit down.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I must call on the hon. member to extend a measure of co-operation to the Chair. He knows that according to the Standing Order his comments must be brief. I realize it is difficult to determine what "brief" means, that "brief" is a relative term and that the hon. member's standards may be different from those of the Chair. But I would point out to him that there are other limitations and prescriptions provided in the Standing Order which the hon. member should keep

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in mind. I hope he will soon allow an opportunity to other hon. members representing other groups in the House to make their comments on the statement made by the minister.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): I will simply conclude by saying that if the government is not able to respond in a positive and generous way to this initiative of young people they will know who to blame.

Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, we are pleased to have the minister's statement because it gives us some indication of the current situation regarding the long-delayed Opportunities for Youth program for student employment this summer. We are extremely pleased at the response of students and young people across Canada to the kind of opportunities and challenges that were placed before them. We agree that they should be congratulated on this score. The young people of Canada have demonstrated once again that they possess initiative and imagination. We do not agree, however, that the government should share in the congratulations. I say this, Mr. Speaker, because if the youth of Canada have made the kind of response that has oversubscribed the budget ten times, then it is incumbent upon the government to respond in turn to the students.

The only reason there has not been an even greater response by youth is the long delay of the government in revealing any kind of program at all. There is nothing in the total program, Mr. Speaker, to have prevented the government announcing it in December. If it had been announced then instead of late in March, giving students and young people less than a month to apply, certainly we could have had orderly and thoughtful discussion and evaluation of particular projects. We would not have encountered the chaotic conditions faced by the Opportunities for Youth office today with a veritable Everest of applications. Obviously the delay on the part of the government and the consequent rush of applications is bound to cause chaotic conditions, is bound to cause wastefulness and is bound to cause some projects requiring a great deal of thought to be applied for without sufficient study of their implications.

While \$15 million sounds very generous, we should put this amount in its proper perspective. At the most, \$15 million will provide 15,000 students with \$1,000 each to go back to university, but we all know that the average cost of attending university is approximately \$1,500 a year. We should recognize too, Mr. Speaker, that 990,000 students, nearly a million, will be looking for work as soon as universities and the senior grades of high school finish their terms.

I have been approached to assist on student projects, Mr. Speaker, and I advised the applicants that the forms would be available at Canada Manpower offices. But five days after the announcement by the government no forms were available at Canada Manpower offices on the Pacific coast.

We in the NDP are concerned that some very worthwhile projects have been turned down and we are concerned that there has not been enough time for proper assessment. We would urge the government to make