

the "lost generation". I would say that we are wasting lives, and I feel that, in terms of the broad principles of equal opportunity and minority rights, all members of this House should recognize the need for increased awareness and for consultation on this very serious problem which will certainly become a priority for this Government, and that governments, employers and unions should be aware of the problem and take joint action, so that we will not have a generation that has lost all hope and is unable to seek its rightful place in society.

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[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CENTRAL AMERICA—REQUEST FOR DEBATE ON CANADIAN ROLE

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Madam Speaker, the Minister of State for External Relations (Mr. Pepin) is quoted as saying in New York that Canada has been actively engaged in discussions with Cuba, Nicaragua, and Guatemala—no mention being made of El Salvador, Honduras, and Costa Rica—with a view to offering Canadian observer teams to supervise the truce which the Contadora Group is trying to arrange to bring peace and stability to Central America.

Now that the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. MacEachen) has returned to the House for Question Period it is appropriate that he should know that the House expects that, if the stories are true, the Government will be setting aside some of its time so the issue can be fully debated and approved or disapproved, as the case may be, before any decision is taken to commit Canadians, whether military or civilian, to any such operation. During his statement the Secretary of State for External Affairs should outline fully how this offer came to be made, as well as the terms and conditions, including the length of time that any Canadian observer group would be permitted to serve in such a role.

Canadians will no longer tolerate truce observation teams to serve more or less indefinitely, as has been altogether too prevalent in previous similar situations. Canada does not want to become part of the problem that needs to be resolved. It is also important that Canadians should learn why no discussions appear to have taken place with authorized spokesmen in El Salvador, nor in Honduras and Costa Rica where some involvement is being alleged.

Madam Speaker: Order. The Hon. Member's time has expired.

Oral Questions

• (1115)

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

THE ECONOMY

FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR TORONTO PROJECTS

Hon. Michael Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Earlier this week the political Minister for Toronto was complaining that the Government had lots of money available for its various programs, but very few applications. Does this situation indicate that the Government's programs are misdirected, or is the Government concerned that the money will not be spent before the next election?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I have had occasion to discuss this matter with the Minister, and he would be happy to answer the question if addressed to him.

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, I can understand why the Hon. Member came to the conclusion he did on the basis of the newspaper reports of what I said. What I was discussing at that point was the grant that was made to the Ryerson Institute of Technology, which I hope the Hon. Member would support. I was speaking particularly of the area of trade skills development. It is true that in those areas we have had some surplus funds, and I would have welcomed receiving more applications along the line of the Ryerson proposal because it is the kind of thing which, I think, very badly needs to be done across the country.

Mr. Wilson: Madam Speaker, I think this clearly points out that we cannot force-feed an economy. I think it also points out the futility of developing policies which experts in Ottawa design to be perfect programs which, when applied in the real world, simply do not work.

GOVERNMENT POLICY ON TAX INCENTIVES

Hon. Michael Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the same Minister. Is the Government considering a shift toward the use of tax incentives which are broadly based and available to all, or is this not consistent with the political strategy of the Minister's Party which is to try to get maximum publicity through the presentation of a cheque, or the cutting of a ribbon, or a picture in the paper, all key elements of the Liberal political election primer, part one?

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, I am a bit surprised by the Hon. Member's statement. The project which I just described for Ryerson Institute of Technology was not one designed here in Ottawa. It was a worthy project which was designed by people on the spot in Toronto and was supported very strongly by