

*Oral Questions*

absolutely disgraceful record, and they should be applauding the Government for the job creation success it has enjoyed.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Nunziata:** Go to confession on Saturday. You will be there a long time.

[Translation]

## MINISTER'S POSITION

**Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Youth.

Mr. Speaker, in her letter of January 6, the Minister mentioned a cut of \$100 million in youth programs. She asked her Cabinet colleagues for a budget for the next financial year.

Could the Minister inform the House how she can have any impact on the problems of the youth of our country when she now has neither a department nor a budget?

**Hon. Andrée Champagne (Minister of State (Youth)):** Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of the fact that contrary to what the Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre claimed, funding has been redirected to other programs in the Budget, and this money is again going to be used to create jobs. I did my job as a spokesperson for youth, and I did a very good job.

## REQUEST FOR NAME OF NEW PROGRAM

**Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary.

Considering the promises the Prime Minister chose to ignore only a few days after they had been made, could the Minister of State for Youth name even one youth program that has been set up since Senator Hébert started his hunger strike?

**Hon. Andrée Champagne (Minister of State (Youth)):** Mr. Speaker, the House may wish to recall that throughout these discussions, we have been told repeatedly that many young people are in difficulty and are having a very bad time; for instance, many have to live on welfare benefits. In the last Budget we saw, for instance, that \$100 million was earmarked for creating jobs for welfare recipients. And a substantial share of this money will, appropriately, go to Canadian youth.

## ELECTION PROMISES—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Jacques Guilbault (Saint-Jacques):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to tell the Prime Minister that there are hundreds of thousands of young Canadians who realize today that they have been hoodwinked by one of the most prominent leaders of this country.

I would ask the Prime Minister whether that is not just one more example of a policy which for months now has amounted

to nothing more than making promises to electors, only to renege on them, disregard them and do the exact opposite?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Even coming from a Liberal, Mr. Speaker, this kind of cynicism is absolutely astonishing, totally astonishing!

As reported in *Macleans's*, his Liberal colleague and former Minister of Youth said this, and I quote:

[English]

But the youthful Minister—

That was a short-term affair.

—stressed that whatever method young people used to look for employment, it had to be practical.

**Ms. Copps:** What is your word worth, Brian?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order!

**Ms. Copps:** You wouldn't know the truth if it stared you in the face.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Epp (Provencher):** John, show some leadership.

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** We now understand why David Peterson threw her out.

**Mr. Speaker:** Again, I am going to ask the Hon. Member for Hamilton East to refrain from making interjections, and that will be the last time I will ask.

**Mr. Blackburn (Brant):** Good teachers don't make threats.

**Mr. Mulroney:** Mr. Speaker, I know that the Hon. Member for Hamilton East would want to withdraw many of the uncharitable comments she makes, so we will pass on it.

**Mr. Nunziata:** They were all deserved, Brian.

**Mr. Mulroney:** The then Minister of Youth concluded:

In the past we could afford to let our youth dream. But when you are hungry, you have to be pragmatic.

That is a quote from the then Minister of Youth. We are trying to ensure that Canada's youth are no longer hungry and that they have permanent jobs.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

[Translation]

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY GOVERNMENT

**Mr. Jacques Guilbault (Saint-Jacques):** Mr. Speaker, I listened very attentively to the quotation of the Prime Minister and, in all seriousness, I would ask him whether quoting a statement made over a year ago will give food to young people who had faith in him, who took him at his word, and who are disappointed by today's announcement. Does he seriously think that it will solve their problems?