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economic conditions. We are dealing with conditions which affect every single country in the world.

We are not here to lay blame. I know there is deepseated paranoia on the part of the Conservatives. They always want to see conspiracies in everything. There always has to be someone to blame. That is the way their minds work. They go around pointing fingers at who is to blame. We are here to debate solutions. We are not interested in trying to waggle the finger and say, "We caught you doing something nasty". We are here to find creative solutions. We are here to debate what might be done to help young people. We do not deal in this world of paranoia that hon. members opposite seem to enjoy so much.

Since 1968 we have been responsible for creating far more work than other countries. Now we are saying that we should deal with the reality. That paragon of countries which the hon. member for Lethbridge-Foothills so honours and thinks is doing all the right things, the United States of America, with all its policies of cut-back and restraint, now has an unemployment rate well over 9 per cent. It faces the same kind of problems we do. The hon. member uses, if I may be allowed to say so, some of the most ludicrous examples to say that somehow they are doing things right and we are doing things wrong. For example, he said the Canadian government made a serious mistake in the energy field by keeping consumer prices low. The Canadian people obviously did not think we made a mistake because they kept voting for this government which is committed to keeping prices low.

● (1620)

He also says the problem is that we did not know what we were doing and that is why the automotive industry is facing the problems it is. That is an interesting proposition, Mr. Speaker, one that deserves some analysis. If that is the case, then the United States, which went to the world price for energy about three and a half years ago, should not be facing problems in the automotive industry. If one follows his logic, you have to say the U.S. is charging world price, we kept ours below world price; therefore their automobile industry should be healthy and ours should be sick. But the reality is somewhat different, Mr. Speaker. We know that the U.S. industry is really sick because consumers' preferences have changed and, what is more important, the large automobile manufacturers—those wonderful managers which the hon. member likes to put on a pedestal—made serious managerial mistakes by not increasing automation and developing new products in order to compete. That is the reality of the situation. We say this kind of argument, Mr. Speaker, is simply not based on fact and reality. It is based on theory, theology, orthodoxy, which we cannot share because we want to come to grips with the real problems.

What are we doing to help young people in these circumstances, Mr. Speaker? My own department will be spending close to \$800 million this year to deal with a wide variety of measures directed toward young people in the labour market. Of the three million young people coming into the market, 2.5

million will get jobs virtually immediately, within the first 30 days. The others have available to them counselling services, mobility grants and training programs in order to provide for the upgrading of skills and placement in jobs. We have 50 employment centres in universities to provide specialized counselling and placement services for young people. We have opened 400 special youth employment centres across Canada which will have provided placements for over 300,000 Canadian youth this year and last. We did not hear members of the opposition talking about the valuable service provided to young people by those centres.

Mr. McDermid: Wrong.

Mr. Axworthy: We are spending a great deal of time and effort going to employers and asking for their assistance, asking them to use those centres as the forum in which young people can be given assistance to find jobs in the private sector. The government has made that commitment.

In addition, as I have said several times, we have concluded that perhaps the most useful and effective support the government can give to young people coming into the job market is to provide them with training which is relevant to their job needs. The hon. member for Lethbridge-Foothills wants to know what we are doing. We are prepared to spend over \$1 billion on training programs which will affect over 300,000 Canadians, 70 per cent of whom are young people. If that is one of the programs which the hon. member wants us to cut back, if that is part of his "pull in the belt" philosophy, then he flies in the face of the opinion of young people themselves. What they want most sincerely is an opportunity to be trained in a skill for a job that will be there. That is exactly what we are doing. We are putting in place a new training program.

If members of this House want action, if they want something they can do immediately to help young people obtain employment, then I have a suggestion for them. They can agree today in this debate to accept the training legislation we introduced for first reading last Friday and have it passed within a day. We will then have hundreds of thousands of young people going into new training positions. Are the members of the opposition prepared to follow through on that recommendation? They want action; well, here it is. If we get their agreement, the bill can be debated within one day, go to committee, come back and be passed, and we will provide thousands of new job-training positions for Canadians. They can co-operate with us rather than standing up and raising vague questions about industrial strategy. I say to the hon. member for Winnipeg-St. James, the hon. member for Rose-dale (Mr. Crombie), and to others who are here, discuss it in caucus tomorrow; give us a chance and we will have tens of thousands of young people being trained for new jobs.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Thacker: Why did you cripple the oil and gas industry?

Mr. Axworthy: We would like to have the help and assistance of members opposite, and we are asking for it. They can