

Supply

teachers now because we do not have as many children in the classroom as we once had. I guess some deliberate governmental interference brought that about, and I am being facetious when I say that.

● (1620)

One sector of the economy in which many youth expected automatically to find careers was the field of teaching. Now they have learned—and I have a son-in-law and a daughter in exactly the same position—that they cannot necessarily follow their careers at the time they want, in the place they would like and at the rate of pay they think they should receive. Therefore they have to look at the available options. The youth of the country in so many ways are examining their options. For example, if they realize that they cannot obtain teaching positions in Thunder Bay, for whatever reason, they know they have to look elsewhere. This is what happened in the case I mentioned. People graduating from an engineering school find that they cannot practise that career at this particular point in time, so they examine the options.

Before dealing with some of the positive measures that have been taken by the Government, let me say that I believe we have all learned a hard lesson through difficult times. Times have changed and situations have changed. We have to find new ways of going about conducting our affairs as Canadians. Canadians today are no different than they were during the days of the great depression when they had to go through all kinds of gyrations just to find a meal. I think Canadians are strong. I think our youth is strong.

As a government we have an obligation to create a climate in which our youth find opportunities as a result of hard work. We require policies which will provide a major expansion of jobs and an opportunity for the private sector to flourish. We require a better understanding between various levels of government—federal, provincial and municipal. Sometimes we as politicians become so involved in the problems of running our own House we forget we have colleagues in other Houses. That works up and down the ladder. We have to find better ways of accomplishing that.

In response to our caucus meetings in Quebec and in Newfoundland the Government created the Ministry of State for Youth. We heard from that Minister just a while ago. The Opposition wants to make light of that decision. It is a positive sign that the Government recognizes that the problem has grown. In fact, we have many Ministers looking after the problem of trying to create employment opportunities in the country. We now know that we will have to do even more on behalf of our youth; our future. The Government has created a strong voice in Cabinet to take initiatives, to help create jobs for youth, to help co-ordinate the efforts of other Ministers who are in positions to create jobs in our economy and to ensure that they take into account the plight of our youth.

In a moment I will be speaking about large sums of money. Unfortunately, sometimes in our dialogue in the House it is almost as though we could make the problem of unemployment go away, whether it be the youth sector or another

sector, just by identifying it and providing money. It is not that simple. One would think that \$1.38 billion would eradicate the problem. It will do a great deal, but it will not cure all the problems of the unemployed youth. That is what we are trying to do in the creation of the Youth Opportunity Fund announced last December, followed up by initiatives in the Budget of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde). We are trying to use the funds of the people of Canada through programs such as the Youth Opportunity Fund to provide more opportunities for youth to work directly in enterprises sponsored by government and to assist the private sector, by indicating that we recognize that it makes the same investment in the youth of the nation as the Government and that we should do it together.

As I said, we created the Youth Opportunity Fund last year. Recently \$131.5 million was added to that fund, to be used for a mix of new and existing youth employment programs. The Government is criticized for mixing and matching programs, for announcing what has already been announced and so on. The Government is trying to review all programs to ensure that the ones in place work efficiently, to add appropriate measures to make existing programs more effective, and to help create new initiatives.

I suppose when one is in the Opposition it is somewhat like sitting around a coffee table or a bridge table and solving in one hour of discussion in very simplistic terms all the problems of Canada. The Opposition urges the Government to do something concrete, to come up with a master plan. I am sure our Cabinet Ministers, or whatever Cabinet Ministers happen to be in power, are looking to do exactly that, to come up with a genuine idea which in a very simplistic way will cure all the problems of the country. Unfortunately that is not the way life works. We require a variety of ideas. We have to bring them together to maximize the efforts of Canadians to create more jobs. However, I recognize the particular subject we are discussing today is that of youth, so in a sense I will return to where I began.

Despite the fact that the Government has done many things, such as the ones I have already outlined, it has also implemented the Career Access Program which will give some 78,000 young people an opportunity to obtain on-the-job experience. We have some 455 student employment offices across the country which will put some 333,000 young people into jobs. Despite all these facts, we require an attitude which from time to time transcends parochial interests and partisan politics. We must recognize that we all have a responsibility to maintain that which will provide jobs for young people, middle-aged people and older people—the confidence Canadians essentially have in this country. It is there but it becomes eroded when we hear nothing but doom and gloom, when we paint a daily picture in the House that the world is coming to an end tomorrow.

I would not expect opposition Members to say that we are doing a great job, but I expect a few more positive suggestions as to how we can alleviate the problems of the young unemployed people of Canada. Hon. Members opposite certainly do