

Supply

due respect, Mr. Speaker, one only needs to look around to see that the concern of youth a thousand times over is unemployment.

As well, the Minister has been placed among three other Ministers, the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Roberts), the Secretary of State (Mr. Joyal) and the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Caccia). The Ministry of State for Youth has no authority and appears to be merely a task force for advising those other Ministers. As far as I can see, the only real jobs that the Minister of State for Youth has created to date are the ones in her own Ministry. Jobs have been created for more bureaucrats.

We need action, Mr. Speaker, not smoke and mirrors. Today we are addressing the subject of the killers of youth employment, which are high interest rates, lack of recognition for research and development by the Government opposite, the devalued dollar, poor management and the buying of elections at the taxpayers' expense. I would like to deal with some of the economic reasons for the lack of youth employment.

Investor confidence in the country has been totally destroyed. That is the reason we have the unemployment rate that we have today. An estimated \$50 billion Canadians have left this country in the last six years. Taxation offers no incentive to reinvest. That taxation is created by irresponsible spending by the Government. That is why we opposed Bill C-24 so aggressively, Mr. Speaker. That Bill contained no provision for accountability and that is taking away from the unemployed youth of the country. There are no rewards for risk. Dealing with regional disparity, the special employment initiatives program is a clear-cut example of that.

By their own admission, Liberal Members have pursued social programs and neglected the engine that pulls them. They have neglected the engine of free enterprise, the engine of growth and the engine of small business. FIRA was an over-reaction which drove every foreign dollar out of the country. What has been done about that? Liberal Members are now trying to make amendments which would resolve the situation that they have created. That situation is another cause of the massive unemployment in the country. The implementation of the National Energy Program in western Canada was an over-reaction. Jobs were lost by the thousands. Liberal Members are now trying to make amends. It goes on and on, Mr. Speaker.

Dealing with Crown corporations, \$2 billion has been put into Canadair and de Havilland. In 1982, that money would have saved every small business that went bankrupt and that would have meant jobs for youth in the country. Again, high interest rates and the deficit are the real killers. What are we going to do about them, Mr. Speaker?

The Leader of the Official Opposition (Mr. Mulroney) has indicated what we will do about research and development. He said:

We're going to:

1. Double the collective Canadian contribution to this indispensable sector during our first term in office;

2. Set priorities and develop a co-ordinated approach to government-sponsored research;

3. Improve the linkage between government labs, universities and the private sector, with special emphasis on small business;

4. Encourage the production of new technologies and ideas by Canadian industries;

5. Facilitate the introduction and adaptation of innovative technology developed abroad; and

6. Encourage the diffusion of modern technology and know-how across the country.

Why?

Because according to the National Research Council, a 1 per cent increase in R and D expenditure (as a percentage of GNP) means creating 800,000 new jobs.

It is a question of good, sound management, Mr. Speaker. I realize that my time is running out. Therefore, when dealing with an issue as important as this one, I would like to finish on a positive note. We must learn to share with our young people and train our young people. Most of all, we must allow them to have a chance to excel and be prepared to take over where we leave off. Young people today are no different than they were 30 years ago. The only difference is that we must now plan for their future so as to allow them a brighter future.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): A ten-minute period is now provided in order to question the Hon. Member about his remarks. Are there any questions? Debate.

[Translation]

Hon. Céline Hervieux-Payette (Minister of State (Youth)): Mr. Speaker, during a recent trip across Canada, at meetings with young people, youth organizations, unions and management, I realized how serious the problem was, and I must say this shed an often tragic light on the tremendous difficulties facing Canadian youth, because improved business conditions have not yet had a significant impact on unemployment.

I agree with the Opposition that a situation like this is intolerable. However, I cannot agree with the Opposition motion that refers to the "continuing failure of the Government" to restore pre-recession levels of employment opportunities for young people. I do not agree, because the present Government, through a host of measures and programs and by providing financial assistance, has tried to improve prospects for our young people, and in fact, the last Budget brought down by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) earmarked \$150 million for this purpose.

Just a few days ago, I announced the allocation of \$131.5 million taken from this amount, which is part of the Youth Opportunity Fund created last December to improve co-ordination of federal expenditures for youth. The amount included \$30 million more for Summer Canada, bringing the total amount up to \$200 million, which should help create more than 81,000 jobs for our young people this summer.

Similarly, Canada Employment Centers for students, which at a cost of \$13.6 million provide thousands of young people with jobs and which last year found employment for 333,257