

*Oral Questions***UNEMPLOYMENT**

Mr. Maurizio Bevilacqua (York North): Mr. Speaker, the economic crisis that Canada is going through has been particularly damaging to our youth.

While this government speaks at length about global competitiveness and its prosperity agenda, over 350,000 young Canadians are unemployed and many others are on the welfare rolls of this nation.

My question to the Minister of Employment is this. When is he going to realize that his government's policies are creating a lost generation of young workers condemned to a life of chronic unemployment? When will he introduce a meaningful program that will put our young people back to work?

Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the government and the Department of Employment and Immigration have a host of programs trying to be helpful to Canadians of whatever age who are facing the downturn of the economy.

If the hon. member thinks that the \$3 billion we spend to help these people is not enough, he could tell us where to take it from. Should we increase taxes or do we increase the deficit? If he has ideas as to how we could better spend that \$3 billion I would be ready to listen to him.

Mr. Maurizio Bevilacqua (York North): Mr. Speaker, everywhere I go, in every community, in every town and in every city throughout this country, I find young people who fear for their future and the future direction of this nation.

My supplementary question to the same minister is this. What does the future have in store for Canada when 350,000 young people are being denied their rightful opportunity to a job and training? Who does the minister think will guarantee our future prosperity?

Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, over 470,000 Canadians take advantage of the programs that we have at Employment and Immigration. The way for these kids to tackle the future is to embark with all social partners in society into making Canada a more competitive country. This will

ensure prosperity. That will be done through learning. That will be done through acquiring new skills. This is exactly what the initiative of the government is all about.

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• (1440)

THE ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of the Environment.

The alarming discovery of 30 to 40 per cent ozone depletion over northern and eastern Canada cries out for both government action as well as for early warnings. Since most of the ozone destruction results from the release of man-made chemicals such as CFCs and since this level of measured ozone destruction increases cancer by 120 to 160 per cent, increases eye damage by 18 to 24 per cent, reduces crop yield by 30 to 40 per cent and simply kills some forms of life, will the minister show leadership on the seriousness of this issue and implement an immediate national full cycle mandatory CFC recovery program, a program that this caucus will pass through this House in one day?

Hon. Jean J. Charest (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the member for Skeena for his question and having had the courtesy of informing me of the thrust of his question before Question Period.

It is important to reiterate the fact that this is an illustration of the global environmental challenges that the planet faces in the years to come. On the one hand we are faced with a problem that may have very dramatic effects on all of our country because of its geography while on the other hand we contribute 2 per cent to the total problem.

As I pointed out before, Canada has really been in the forefront in dealing with this issue. We were instrumental in putting together the first environmental treaty at the 1987 Montreal protocol. We have reduced the amount of CFCs by 45 per cent since then and we think we can eliminate at least 85 per cent of CFCs by 1995, away ahead of schedule.

We are dealing with the provinces on the issue of mandatory recycling. I will be happy to keep my friend abreast of the developments in that area.