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tive education concept. High school students remain and always will be a major concern of this government. As you know, they are the labour force of the twenty-first century. Since this particular group happens to be the worst off at this time, the government is going to do everything it can to help bridge the transition between education and work.

In its comments, the opposition asked us to show some original thinking, to show initiative and creativity. I hope our colleagues on the other side of the House realize the tremendous range of programs that our government introduced since it came to power. The Challenge Program, for instance, which did not exist before and was introduced in 1985, almost seven years ago, a program that has a number of components such as Summer Employment Experience Development, Work Orientation Workshops, Student Business Loans, Business Drive for Jobs, CECs for Students, and Native Internship Programs. There are plenty of programs to help young people deal with the kind of situations they can expect.

I realize the situation is not a particularly easy one. In fact, we have a very critical situation, but our government has decided to face the facts and do what has to be done to ensure that the present critical situation with respect to youth employment will not be merely postponed, to be faced by future generations. In fact, what we see today was predictable a number of years ago. Without trying to blame anyone, however, we have decided to implement the necessary strategies to ensure that the problems we are able to identify now and to which we intend to respond will not be carried on to the next generation.

Mr. Gabriel Desjardins (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the hon. member for Bourassa for her excellent speech describing all the initiatives and programs the government has put in place to help young Canadians get a good education in with a view to securing a job later on.

I know the hon. member for Bourassa is very concerned by the situation in Montreal and today's debate must really be of interest to her. I would therefore like to ask her the following question. Given the serious problem of young people who drop out of school because they do not think they will find a job, if she were a student today in Montreal, what message would she convey to

students who are thinking of dropping out? What advice could she give them?

Mrs. Marie Gibeau (Bourassa): Mr. Speaker, that is a very good question. Actually, even though we have a full load of answers for them, the only advice we can give them are alternatives, through all our programs. So, as my hon. colleague said not too long ago, the only thing we can tell them is this: every generation, be it our very own, the previous one or the following one, every generation complains about being society's sacrificial lamb every one of them. The same goes for today's youth. They think of themselves somewhat as victims.

Last week, a young man in my constituency told me he could not see any reason to stay in school. He blamed his parents and the previous generation for having been too tolerant. I thought that was funny, because when we were young, we blamed our parents, our teachers or previous generations for some other wrongdoings.

It is never easy to be young. Kids have to take matters into their own hands, although they have been overly-protected and pampered, as is the case with the present generation. The reason they are going through all this might be that their parents and grand-parents, like my own, having lived through the war, became very strict. And then the people from my generation decided to try something else and we became much more tolerant.

The advice I would give them is first of all to be proud of their country. When one looks at the Japanese, one can admire the pride they show in everything they do. That could be considered chauvinistic, but perhaps the time has come to talk about that. The other advice I would give them is that there is certainly no future in dropping out, nor in giving up, nor in refusing to take up a challenge. The future is theirs. Indeed, it is an exciting challenge and it is all the more so because it is difficult. So I would advise them to complete their education because there is no other alternative. There will be absolutely no work for them without basic qualifications. Whether it be at the secondary or postsecondary level, there is no job for underqualified people.

Increasingly, with technological advances and market globalization, the fierce and sound competition which will prevail because of the opening up and rationalization of the Canadian people, our young people, will have to become more productive, more efficient and more qualified at any level and in any field. They have no alternative but to stay in school.