

● (1610)

I come from a city, Mr. Speaker, that led this country in economic growth two years ago. Young people from Quebec, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, and Ontario were coming to my riding and to my city in droves to get a career opportunity, to get a job, to get a start in life. They could be starting apprentices, they could be university graduates, young people from right across the spectrum. But if you walk downtown in Calgary today you will find that 25 per cent of the office space is vacant. The biggest building in town, a red brick one, was built by Petro-Canada. It is basically empty. Forty per cent of its space is not occupied. Taxpayers are paying the rent for a building across the street which is completely empty as a result of Petro-Canada.

Jobs are created by economic growth. Canadians are willing to invest their money, their talent, their energy into the creation of that growth and into the creation of those jobs. It is only Government, specifically this federal Government, which has created an economic catastrophe. Bankruptcies, job loss and the lack of an economic growth engine are the results of policies brought into this Chamber by the Government. To avoid those kinds of mistakes, all this Government had to do was to listen to people who knew more than did the Government, who believed in all parts of Canada not just some narrow piece. The Government should have listened to those who really believed and understood. If each and every part of our nation is allowed to flower and develop we would have something greater than the sum of the parts because we have something more magnificent than the sum of the parts.

When we stand in this Chamber today and talk about youth unemployment, we are talking about the future. We are talking about a Government that has robbed a big part of a generation of its potential future. The economic malaise is not hurting people in my age group—some yes, but on average it is not hurting people in my age group in the way it hurts those in my children's age group. They are the ones having to develop a different lifestyle, one that accommodates the notion that they might never have the same kind of income opportunity or the same kind of job opportunity their parents had.

This nation was founded by people who told their children that their opportunities would be greater than their own. It turned out to be true. For most of us who serve in this Chamber that has been true. The opportunity system that we enjoyed as adults and as young people was greater than the opportunity system our parents enjoyed.

But, Mr. Speaker, things are now going the other way, and they do not have to. There is no nation on this earth that has greater per capita potential or greater resources for capital. Ours is a magnificent country with magnificent potential. We can provide the highest standard of living in the world for our people. But we must have public policy that allows it to happen and encourages it to happen and makes it possible for it to happen. What we cannot have in public policy is an ever and ever smaller group of decision makers, further and further removed from reality, making an increasing number of decisions. That is what socialism is all about.

### *Supply*

In the four years I have been in this Chamber, almost every piece of legislation brought forward by this Government has created some small group of people appointed in private, paid in private, to make in private decisions that affect the lives of Canadians. In that kind of atmosphere, Mr. Speaker, I have seen investment capital leave this country, skilled human beings with talent energy and drive leave this country to make some other nations in this world a little richer than they might have been. I have seen very few people from other countries—relatively few—bringing their dollars, their talents, and their energy to this country to make this nation a little richer and a little better.

What is required is an about face in public policy. That will flow from the opportunity that Canadians will have to exercise their democratic right. If one really believes in the essence of the motion before this Chamber today, Mr. Speaker, it could put it into action by simply calling an election and letting Canadians decide whether the potential of this country has been well shepherded by this present Government, or whether it is time for a change. I for one say to the young people of this country that their future depends on change. The more rapidly we get it, the more complete it is, the more opportunity system there will be for our youth. Failure to change means continuation of the path on which we are currently treading. That is not good enough, Sir.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault):** Are there any questions or comments?

**Mr. Jack Masters (Thunder Bay-Nipigon):** Mr. Speaker, I think all of us in this House share the same concerns about our unemployment problems. We have a special feeling for the many problems caused our youth in not being able to find the kind of employment they want, and want now. I do not think anyone on either side of the House has all the answers, or has a corner on the market of sympathy for our young people, or an understanding of their future. We should be going at this problem with a concerted effort, trying to encourage all sectors of the economy, all levels of Government, and all people to admit we have problem. We have addressed it in a number of ways. But let us find new ways together to solve the problem.

I believe in many respects an honest effort is being made. I believe the Government I support has taken initiatives and a very strong lead in this area. I would like to dwell on these measures in a moment. I cannot resist this opportunity to remind everyone of another part of the equation of the unemployment of youth in this country, namely, the inherent strength and resiliency of Canadian youth to accept the fact that, like many of us, these are difficult times. Maybe they too will do, and are doing their part in helping to get over this horrendous problem and this desperate feeling people have in not being able to find a job.

I feel in a personal way, as I am sure every Member of this House does, the concern and the troubles that youth have. The Hon. Member who just spoke said it is all because of the policies of this Government. If we follow that sort of logic through to its conclusion, then we do not need as many school