

*Supply*

I listened very carefully to my hon. friend's comments. His number one concern seemed to be competition, as well as a well-trained work force and education. I do not believe anybody in this Chamber would argue with that, but I do have a couple of questions.

Over the past few months I have received over 6,000 responses to a survey from the people who live in my riding. Their number one concern is deficit reduction and they want the government to start working on the debt.

With regard to competition, this involves all of us. The hon. member said that people are the key to the issue. It involves not only all levels of government but the agencies, the work force, educational institutions, research and development, and science and technology.

We should be talking to each other with the keen interest of coming out with some resolutions and ideas so that we can move forward together. As we go through the peaks and valleys there is no doubt that Ontario is suffering, but there are other places in Canada that are suffering too.

Competition is the number one priority. We do need a well-educated and well-trained population, but how are we going to go about that?

I chaired the Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology and we came forward with a report, I believe in 1988. The government in 1988 was spending just over \$5 billion on research and development and science and technology in all federal departments. We also introduced scholarships for science and technology in centres of excellence. That is addressing the problem in one area.

We also made amendments to the UI bill to put money into training for people who were unemployed. I believe the figure is \$3 billion or \$3.8 billion this year. I think the member is saying that is not enough.

There is only one taxpayer, whether he is paying federal, provincial or municipal taxes. We must deal with raising the funds so that we are able to follow up the resolutions that the hon. member is putting out today. No one is going to disagree that we need a well-educated population. We spend more per capita than other countries with the exception of Sweden. We have to spend more efficiently and effectively.

I would like the member to tell the House exactly who is going to pay, or indeed how we can redirect funding to obtain the goals that he has outlined.

**Mr. Bevilacqua:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the hon. member for her question. However, it is quite evident that this government speaks a different language than the rest of Canadians.

Canadians need jobs. This government has been abdicating its responsibility towards that duty. If we examine the master plan that the government has presented it does not speak at all to the future. As a matter of fact, a close analysis of the budget would probably show that a very small percentage of the budget is dedicated to areas that speak to the future: namely research and development, education and training for young Canadians.

I personally do not understand how this government plans to lead Canada into the future when Canadians are telling it that we need more commitment to education. They are telling it that if we want to build a high-wage, highly skilled society we need commitments. It cannot simply be words.

The time has come for Canadians to realize, and particularly this government, that we need a new contract, a new set of arrangements between the individual, the community and the government. To that end, I can tell the member opposite that the government's plan is simply not working. Its message is not getting through.

We on this side of the House clearly understand that research and development and education and training are part of our economic development plan. We certainly do not think that we can compete when 30 per cent of our high school students drop out. We know that.

What one must do, as I am sure the member does as a responsible member of Parliament, is do some inner analysis and look within for answers.

• (1040)

This government's policy has failed. The member must admit that. We still have over 400,000 young people who are unemployed. This summer there will be young people who will not be able to continue their education. At the end of the day we must make sure that we give the necessary prerequisites to Canadians.