

*Supply*

infrastructures program because municipalities tell us that means jobs tomorrow.

People who are working tomorrow are not claiming unemployment insurance and are no longer on welfare. That is where some of the money will come from. People will be productive, earning and helping to reduce the deficit, and not necessarily costing us more money.

**Mr. René Soetens (Ontario):** Mr. Speaker, unfortunately I did not really hear the answer to the question. I asked how many students or young people the Liberal Party expected to put in the Canadian youth service. I heard no answer as to whether it was 10, 20, 200 or 2,000. No such answer was forthcoming. Nor was there an answer forthcoming as to how many dollars would be spent. Nor was there an answer forthcoming as to where the money would come from.

• (1605)

To be fair, what the hon. member did say was that the money would come from the government spending more money in other programs. I do not know if I can fully comprehend how the federal government solves the problem by putting an extra \$1 billion or \$2 billion of borrowed money into infrastructure work, matched by \$1 billion or \$2 billion of borrowed money from the provinces and matched by \$1 billion or \$2 billion of borrowed money from the municipalities. I really question how borrowing \$6 billion in the coming year solves the problem that the hon. member is talking about.

When we borrow \$6 billion we are saying to those people, we have borrowed it on their behalf, that they should realize that all we have done is to defer the taxes that are being spent today for the young people to pay tomorrow.

It is that very tax burden that Canadians are facing today from the spending of the governments of the last 20 to 25 years, federally and provincially, that is in fact causing the problems that young people are facing today. Governments, in the plural, have a limited ability to respond because we at the federal level are having to pay out some \$39 billion to \$40 billion a year in interest. Think of that interest if we had it to spend. It would be more important for us not to have it because then Canadians would have it. We would not be taxing it away

from them. There would be an awful lot more economic opportunities.

The finance committee of which I am a member is presently doing a study relating to debt and deficits. It is interesting that the witnesses, at least to this point, are talking about the fact that it has been proven, simply by the experience of Canada and for those of us who are members of Parliament from the province of Ontario in particular, that government spending is not the answer.

We have serious economic problems in Ontario. Why do we have them? Certainly if government spending is the answer then we should not have problems. I notice there is a member here from Saskatchewan. Why does Saskatchewan have an economic problem? The government of Saskatchewan—in fairness, not the current government—for the last five years has been spending money like drunken sailors. Why do they have a problem in Saskatchewan?

If spending money is the answer then why do we have economic problems in this country? Obviously that is not the answer. What we have to look at is a more efficient way of doing a lot of the things that we are doing in Canada, not just at the federal level, but also at the provincial level.

I have heard members talk about how we should look at the situation of youth in Canada as though the federal government is taking no initiatives in the way of youth. The hon. member for Haldimand—Norfolk just commented about the drastic cuts to education that the federal government has implemented.

I am not sure what he is talking about when he talks about cuts to education. The federal government, at least in the four and a half years that I have been here, has transferred more money each and every year to provinces than the year before. In fact the increases have generally been in excess of the rate of inflation. They have been in excess of the rate of increase that we have applied to our own programs.

If the hon. member feels that there is not enough money being put into education then I can only suggest that he go back to the province from which he is a member and ask the province what it has done with all this money that the federal government has transferred to it. That is because in my humble opinion it is not going into the education system.