

Apart from community involvement, there is the whole question of world peace, Mr. Speaker, that is a tremendous concern for all our Canadian youth. All my consultations clearly showed that overwhelmingly, our youth is antimilitarist and each time decisions are taken . . . I know one of them hurt many of our young and dispelled much of their illusions. It was the decision to test the Cruise missile. Unfortunately we did not make the effort to reach that audience, and each time we take decisions we do so more or less in a vacuum, with experts, taking for granted the others will follow.

● (1700)

Mr. Speaker, young Canadians do not necessarily believe in the conventional approach in this regard, and I think we shall have to call on them increasingly to support our world peace initiatives, make them understand and actually keep them better informed about government policies and, who knows, join forces with them. They have proved to be and still are very active elements in Germany, England and other countries of the world. We should be fully aware that a similar situation may well occur in Canada, because if we keep on ignoring their urgent pleas we are taking very serious chances.

Let us deal with the matter of education, Mr. Speaker. Even though educational problems do not come under the constitutional jurisdiction of this House, we do know, on the other hand, that substantial funds earmarked for post-secondary education are voted by this House. Many people today are wondering whether post-secondary education really meets the labour market requirements. Does the training provided by these institutions really help the student to become an active member of society? People demand more than ever that those in their ivory towers be in closer touch with the realities that surround them.

Mr. Speaker, with the substantial amounts that we invest in post-secondary institutions, I hope it will be possible to help these young people join the main stream of life. It should also be recognized that economic hardships, the technological revolution and all such phenomena must affect them as well and that they have to adjust accordingly. Accessibility is another problem. We know that at the present time only 27 per cent of young Canadians have access to post-secondary education, while the remaining 73 per cent are denied access, often for financial reasons.

It is a tragedy that access to education should more and more be based on elitism. In this regard, I know that this would be a big challenge for Cabinet members on the eve of negotiations on post-secondary education, and I know that many young people would like to have access to higher education but unfortunately cannot afford it at this time or cannot count on family support. This should be a matter of some concern to this House.

Mr. Speaker, before closing I would also like to mention the necessity of an overall youth policy. At the present time, some

random initiatives are taken, here and there but without any overall action policy towards that social group. And in this sense, the obvious lack of leadership concerns everyone, young people as well as their parents who wonder what will the future hold for their children. And the Government has the duty to clearly indicate what direction we want this new generation to take.

I think that the Members will be interested eventually in trying to develop an overall youth policy although it is a taxing exercise. Perhaps it should be the spearhead of our policy and we should dedicate our resources and energies to that end.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased once again to see that the Government has accepted this suggestion. Everybody knows that action should be taken without delay and that we should listen and care for our young people. Finally, I hope that the preparations for the International Year of Youth will make this possible so that 1985 will really be the beginning of a full and complete participation of all our young Canadians to our society. Furthermore, perhaps in the course of that year, we might be able to find some newer solutions, because so far the ones we came up with are certainly not satisfactory.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault):** Remarks and questions period. The Hon. Member for Labelle.

**Mr. Dupras:** Mr. Speaker, I want to put a question to my colleague from Shefford, because he was through his awareness program instrumental in having the Government set up the new Ministry of State for Youth.

Since the Canadian government has been the first actually to launch programs such as Young Canada Works, Katimavik and other excellent youth programs in Canada, would it not be more appropriate, in his view, that those most commendable projects come under the new Ministry of State (Youth) so that they may be improved and meet the needs of our young Canadians who feel that this new ministry, which illustrates that the government is concerned with the young, will offer enormous opportunities.

Therefore, would the hon. member for Shefford tell the House, whether or not those three programs could eventually come under the jurisdiction of this new ministry?

**Mr. Lapierre:** Mr. Speaker, my colleague from Labelle (Mr. Dupras) is perfectly aware that those programs have a direct effect on the employment of young people and I am sure that the new Minister of State will take over, if not the administrative responsibilities, at least the development of criteria for such programs. She will be promoting grants which hopefully will be increased substantially. But I must admit that the Minister of State (Youth) should go even further in that direction since I have numbered 87 federal programs directly and indirectly related to youth. And I do hope she will act as a coordinator as some of those programs may overlap. Considering she will overview the operations and not the administrative