

Supply

I might add the rate last year was 9.6 per cent, and that was bad enough.

Hon. members of the Liberal Party, you are destroying the youth of this country. You have not been creative. You are not altering your priorities. You have been wasting money on all kinds of things. For God's sake, think about what you are doing to the future of this country by spending \$60 million in advertising as opposed to creating meaningful jobs in useful work for the youth of our country which they so desperately need.

Let us face it, the youth of this land do not want charity, welfare, or unemployment insurance—they want meaningful work. For God's sake, supply it or face your own children and grandchildren and explain your own failures to them.

[Translation]

Mr. Rémi Bujold (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the motion presented today by the opposition party is most interesting. I believe, as others have pointed out this afternoon, that the problem is a challenge to all Canadians and of course to our government. However, when the member for North Vancouver-Burnaby (Mr. Cook) remarked that the government was doing practically nothing, to hear him talk was like being in an army column where only one soldier is in step, and the hon. member seemed to identify with this individual, since according to him, everybody else, all the other parties in this House, are not doing what should be done, and only his own party is doing something to remedy the situation for young people. I agree that the situation is most unfortunate, and our government is aware of this, because with the means available to us, we have tried to set up certain structures to help young Canadians.

People who try to make fun of the 400 employment centres we have across Canada should think twice, because these placement offices have been set up to give students across this country a place where they can find out what jobs are available. And that is why we must have the co-operation of all the parties in this House, of all provincial governments, of industry and business and everyone who can provide employment for our young people. If every employer across Canada used our employment centres to recruit students, we would be able to place far more students, because young people at the centres are trained, and the centres can, within 48 hours, provide employers with students who have the requisite qualifications and potential to fill the jobs offered by the employers. This kind of co-operation, Mr. Speaker, is absolutely essential in the present situation, if we are to provide more summer jobs across Canada for our young people.

It is absolutely no use criticizing people and trying to prove that someone is not doing his or her work properly. We must stop this in-fighting and work together to help as many young people as possible to find jobs. As I said earlier, we have 400

employment centres across the country, and in Quebec alone there are 95. Last year, in Quebec, we managed to find jobs for 75,000 young people, and this year we hope to exceed that number. But I must repeat that all businesses and especially all Quebec employers should deal with our Canada Employment Centres. The centres are there to serve employers, and there is no charge for their services. Obviously, the present situation may lead some people to take a very pessimistic view, but in any case, we have to deal with it. In addition to our employment centres, we must also concentrate on training Canada's youth. It was said earlier that we should be focussing far more efforts on the training program for young people. That is exactly what we want to do, Mr. Speaker, and it is for this reason that last Friday, the minister introduced in the House a bill to deal with a situation where, during the eighties, we shall be faced with a manpower shortage. Whether through retraining, or any other kind of training, we must prepare our young people for the labour market, and especially throughout the eighties.

This year, during the 1981-82 financial year, the federal government will be spending over \$1 billion on training alone, and I am sure that no one is going to criticize this expenditure. After listening to the hon. members who spoke before me this afternoon, we can probably take for granted that the two opposition parties are going to support the government on the bill now before the House, and that it will be possible to expedite passage of the bill so that quick action can be taken to help young people enter the labour market. It is clear that the legislation must be amended, since it has been in effect for 15 years, and although it has certainly provided an excellent service to many individuals seeking training throughout the country, we must adapt it to the requirements of the eighties.

In Quebec, for instance, as a result of the Axworthy-Marois agreement announced on July 30, 1981, the province received enough money to train over 90,000 workers. Ottawa transferred to Quebec \$133 million for the purchase of institutional training and apprenticeship training courses, while \$30 million went to training on the job. Add to this \$562,000 for native people's training and about \$66 million in the form of training allowances and unemployment insurance benefits. Mr. Speaker, I feel these figures are very revealing. In fact, our new legislation is aimed at further increasing the sums of money that will be made available to people who want training that will enable them to get jobs in Canada requiring a certain degree of specialized training. Incidentally, Mr. Speaker, the consultations prior to the introduction in the House last Friday of the bill which is intended to provide Canada with a genuine occupational training charter, these consultations first took place some time last year at a federal-provincial conference in Quebec, and again last January, in Vancouver, where participants wanted the legislation now before the House to respond exactly to our needs.