

Canada are still waiting for job opportunities, educational opportunities and training opportunities.

My question to the minister is the following: When will this government become a vehicle of opportunity for young Canadians? When will this government stop turning its back on young Canadians?

Hon. Pierre H. Cadieux (Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport) and Minister of State (Youth) and Deputy Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, like my hon. colleague and I am sure a number of other colleagues who have travelled the country, we do meet young Canadians who have confidence in the future, particularly when they are looking at a unified Canada.

What the young people of this country want to make sure of is to have the fundamentals in place so that they have a chance to face the future, and that is exactly what we are doing.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

Mr. John Brewin (Victoria): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance.

Over the summer the government, with the support of the Liberals, went on an outrageous spending spree on military equipment, including spending \$4.5 billion on cold war helicopters. Last Friday it spent an additional over \$20 million on new armouries of all things. Yet the government is cutting back on job training programs.

How does the government explain this unconscionable spending binge to young Canadians like Mike McBride in my riding and other young Canadians all across Canada who are rejected for job training opportunities because the government says it does not have any money?

Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member should listen. The government is not saying that it does not have any money. The government has increased spending on training Canadians, again a measure which that party opposed in this House and helped the Liberals for a year and a half to prevent Canadians from being trained. We have done it notwithstanding that. We have done it. We

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are spending \$3.5 billion in adjustment and training programs for Canadians. The 800,000 Canadians who benefit from these programs know what we are talking about.

Mr. John Brewin (Victoria): Mr. Speaker, unemployed Canadians know who is telling the truth on this issue.

My supplementary is for the Minister of National Defence. Recent history shows that these defence contracts which the government announced this summer are a lucrative source of jobs for at least some Canadians. Former officials of DND get snapped up by the private defence industry on projects which they have pushed within DND.

Will the minister take steps now to break up this cosy relationship that completely compromises the integrity of the advice which DND gives to the government on the helicopter and other issues?

[Translation]

Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I would first of all tell the hon. member that the \$4 billion for the helicopters is spread out over the 13 years of the contract.

Second, the department has had very strict conflict of interest regulations since 1987 and they are being applied most rigorously.

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MINING INDUSTRY

Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Last week, Canada signed a multimillion-dollar mineral development agreement with Nova Scotia. To date, eight Canadian provinces have renewed mineral development agreements, but Quebec has not.

• (1450)

After many months, have the negotiations with the Government of Quebec been concluded? If so, when will this agreement be signed in order to help the mining industry in Abitibi-Témiscamingue and in Quebec?

[English]

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is correct in citing the fact that we have now signed MDAs with