

Routine Proceedings

mental issues which is a great positive step we need to take.

• (2100)

It is time we elected a government that not only talks about our youth but does something about it. This government gets a passing grade when it comes to talking, but it fails miserably when it comes to action.

When it comes to fighting racism, for example, the Conservatives have learned all the right words but they still have failed to fight it effectively.

I cannot understand the inaction of this government, specifically the Minister of National Defence and the Prime Minister, with regard to the deliberate organized infiltration of the Armed Forces by neo-Nazi and racist organizations. Let me be perfectly blunt. As with other issues affecting race relations in this country, the government is simply burying its head in the sand.

[Translation]

This government which neglects seniors and discourages youth has abandoned the very young and their parents. I know very well that it can bring out figures and studies to show us the opposite, but where, for example, is the child care program that we have heard so much about for 10 years?

What about its proposals to change the statistical standards for determining the number of poor people in this country? Do the Conservatives really think that Canadians are so easily fooled? Do they think that Canadians do not see everyday reality? Does the Conservative government believe that forcing Statistics Canada to lower its figures will wipe away the facts? The economy has not yet turned up and jobs are still as hard to find, if not increasingly scarce.

Where are the programs, which the Conservative government seems to want to study to death, to get thousands of children out of unacceptable poverty?

It is intolerable that nearly a million children suffer physically and mentally from malnutrition in a G-7 country. It is unacceptable that in Canada, in our own backyard, children cannot get the food they need to be healthy. It is unacceptable that thousands of Canadian children go to school malnourished, often poorly dressed

for the weather, unable to concentrate on an empty stomach.

In 1993, at the end of the Conservative government's term, the poor are at a dead end. After 10 years of unkept promises, Canadians no longer have confidence or hope. The Conservatives have brought this country to its knees, and it will be up to us Liberals to put it back on its feet.

Canada's children absolutely must be able to have a good start in life. Young people absolutely must be able to have a vision of the future and the means to achieve it. Adults must again be given job security and seniors must again have the security of an adequate pension.

We Liberals know how to listen to Canadians all across the country. We also know not to make promises that we could not keep.

It is high time to give back to all the people of this country what they need to really get out of their predicament: training and jobs. It is high time to say good bye to this Conservative government.

[English]

Mr. John E. Cole (York—Simcoe): Madam Speaker, it certainly is a pleasure and a distinct honour to stand today to speak to this adjournment motion.

At the end of almost five years in government when I was elected and stood in this House to give my first speech—I was probably more nervous then than I am today—a lot of things have happened in that period of time.

From my initiation, which quite frankly, Madam Speaker, I still believe you were a part of but might not want to admit it today, to the present has been a very interesting and challenging time for me as a member of Parliament.

• (2105)

I look forward to the coming election. I hope the good people of York—Simcoe will have seen in me a person who has tried to serve them to the best of his particular abilities. I hope when they vote they will indicate that this particular member should come back to serve them in this the highest court in the land. It is a real privilege and honour to serve the people of York—Simcoe in the House of Commons of Canada.