

*Supply*

[Translation]

It is now up to this government, business and industry and our schools, to get together and agree on what must be done to guarantee that our young people will have a future. It is high time we had a federal government that listens to our young people and, especially, a government that is proactive. It is high time we had a more liberal government.

[English]

We, the Liberal team, are determined to restore hope and offer a future to Canada's youth. We will get the economy moving again, rebuild Canada's economic leadership, create jobs and reclaim the future of our children and our grandchildren. Young people are very important and are an integral part of our vision of the future.

• (1600 )

As the Liberal Party believes in the potential of Canada's youth it is committed to establishing a national apprenticeship program and to creating a Canadian youth service dedicated to environmental protection and responding to the social needs of our communities.

[Translation]

We have our work cut out for us. Young people realize this, but they are not afraid to meet the challenge. The Liberal Party is aware of this, and we are ready to work twice as hard. The federal government has a moral responsibility to provide opportunities for young people, who in turn have a responsibility to use these opportunities constructively. That is how this country will grow. Co-operation, teamwork and a vision of the future will ensure that today's young people will get the training and the tools they need to lead this country in the 21st century.

We adults have that responsibility today. It is up to us to ensure that this happens. The Liberal Party will be able to show them the way. Young people are our strength and hope, and we are not afraid to invest in giving them the means and the skills they need to take over. Several years from now, we will be proud and happy to say: It is your turn now. The crucial moment is now. It is now or never for thousands of young people. Their future is a priority, for us and for Canada as a whole.

Adequate training and job creation are the keys to the future of our young people. Our Liberal team knows that and intends to invest in those areas. Young Canadians are willing to work, and we are willing to give them a hand.

[English]

**Mr. René Soetens (Ontario):** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the comments of the member. I have a question and a comment. I will make my comment first.

I find it somewhat distasteful that in this House, or in fact anywhere in Canada, we should find a simple excuse of lack of employment opportunities for youth to be the reason or the excuse for the Yonge Street riots. The fact of the matter is that whether it is the Yonge Street riots or the recruitment of young people by the National Heritage Front, the recruitment is going on in high schools where students are, in fact, getting an education. The Yonge Street riot was simply a group of thugs and hoodlums who had nothing better to do and even if they did have something better to do they just simply went on a rampage that is totally unacceptable whether one is unemployed or employed.

I would like to ask the member this. She made a suggestion in her presentation about the Canadian youth service for environmental protection. The program sounds like not a bad idea. I would ask the member if she could please tell me how many youths she would like to put into that program in any one year and just how many dollars she believes ought to be spent on that particular program? Of course, most important, where does she hope the money will come from?

**Mrs. Maheu:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the hon. member for his question. Economists all over this country are saying to us that the deficit and the debt are extremely important. Creating jobs is important too. The only way to really reduce the deficit and the debt is to get people working again. People who are not working cost us more money. We do not have that money, the Conservatives say, but we are not ready to do anything to help those who are not working get back on their feet.

The money is there. One does not have to reduce every single dollar in the first year of a mandate as a government. One makes sure that one gets people back to work and that is the promise that we have made and that we are going to keep. First we will start with the