

The Hon. Member for Ottawa-Vanier (Mr. Gauthier) spoke about the Liberal record and its contribution to young people, education and money. On this side of the House, we categorically reject the notion that the answer to every problem in Canada is to spend more money. The consultation to which the Hon. Member referred is essential if we are to develop plans which will succeed, especially when we consider the limited resources we have.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, it must be pointed out that Canadians already have this sense of urgency and that young Canadians especially are well aware of the situation.

About the record of the Liberal Government over the years I do not think we have anything to worry about on this side because we have already had much more consultation in six months than the Liberals had during their whole mandate.

[*English*]

As the Government we are firmly committed to meeting the challenges with which this situation confronts us. The consultations which have taken place over the last six months have proven that this commitment is shared by all Canadians and that the spirit of co-operation is real and tangible. I attended the First Ministers' conference in Regina. When I returned to my constituency, I was stopped by hundreds of Canadians who told me over and over again how nice it was to do business with a Government that truly cares about what Canadians have to say. It is not a Government which spends more money; it is a Government which asks Canadians what they think should be done and shares with them the responsibility.

The commitment which we have seen from Canadians over the past six months is outstanding and essential. Canadians are proving that if asked they will be glad to co-operate. The spirit of co-operation is real and tangible. All Members of Parliament see it on a regular basis. The Government is striving to provide Canadians with the real training and employment opportunities they will need in a strong and competitive economy.

The resolution talks about consultation and training. That is important, but we must talk about a strong competitive economy. There is only one thing which will help Canadians more than better training, that is, an economy which will provide jobs. The efforts which the Government has made are part of a collective national effort which involve the federal Government, provincial Governments and the private sector.

In December, 1984, a consultation paper was released on training. As a result, concerned groups and individuals from across Canada shared their views with the Government on the very critical matter of training and retraining. It is incredible that when people are asked to, they come forward and provide opinions. Now that Canadians are being asked, they are responding in record numbers. The consultations which have taken place have indicated that a completely revised approach is necessary in the area of federal support for training and employment creation. We must match skills to the demands of the future, not to the outdated needs of the past. Our resources

Training and Development Program

must be used effectively to ensure that youth, and all Canadians, will benefit from the training which will meet the needs of the economy and the ever-changing technology.

The new labour market strategy, which was announced during the First Ministers' conference in Regina, will meet the new objectives and provide a more positive and structured approach to training and employment.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, the initiatives of the Federal Government will be part of a collective effort, and because of this effort, the nature of the programs will meet the special needs of the regions and the labour force. We intend to be flexible. The balance between programs will be established according to regional needs. We are thus moving away from the centralized approach of the past. We shall join our efforts and share the responsibility to create an economic climate that can stimulate investment and long-term job creation for all Canadians.

[*English*]

Even though the programs are geared to all segments of the Canadian labour market, special efforts will be made to encourage women to forge ahead in new fields. The advent of the information age presents opportunities for women which they have never had before. It is the responsibility of the Government to ensure that training and employment opportunities are made available on an equitable basis so that Canadians will be adequately prepared to take advantage of the opportunities.

The Government has started on a categorical and straightforward plan to consult first, to plan, and then to put its actions into force. I think that is very different from what the previous Government has done, a Government which had the habit of spending first and thinking later. When the appropriate time comes, we on this side of the House will be very pleased to support this resolution.

• (1750)

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to participate in the debate on the motion proposed by the Hon. Member for Ottawa-Vanier (Mr. Gauthier). The topic of youth unemployment and the ability of Governments to ensure that the young people of this country are properly directed toward meaningful jobs, and jobs which exist, is one to which all Hon. Members of this House should pay a lot of attention.

Over the last few years I had the experience of being a member of the provincial Legislature of the Province of Ontario. During that time I was part of a Liberal task force on youth unemployment which travelled throughout that province and subsequently reported to the Legislature on the needs of our young people. One of the most disheartening facts we had to face was that thousands of jobs in the high technology area were not being filled while close to 20 per cent of our young people were unemployed. I feel that we as Governments and as a society are misleading our young people if we do not properly inform them and direct them to opportunities in the