

The Budget—Mr. McCurdy

There is something even more significant in this Budget, something that continues a pattern of the past. The Government promised change. I have to describe an impression of politics that I had from the outside, and that is that politicians are too often unable to see beyond today's press scrum or next year's election sufficient to do the things that are necessary to assure the long-term destiny of this country. This has not changed. Those politicians have difficulty in addressing the concerns of the future and have difficulty doing things within a long-term context which will address in a deliberate, coherent and systematic way what must be done to assure that Canada's destiny will be properly fulfilled. That has not changed.

Part of assuring the future of this country is to assure the future of its young people. The plight of the youth of Canada has been described in recent weeks by the New Democratic Party task force on youth which consulted nearly 600 young people from coast to coast, and by a Senate Committee on youth engaged in a similar exercise. There are differences between the two reports, but they say quite clearly, as did the United Nations when it declared National Youth Year, that there is an incipient crisis among youth that must be addressed. It is a crisis that is manifest in the high rates of unemployment among the industrial nations of the world. It is so serious, indeed, that this alienation and unrest has caused riots in many of the cities in Europe.

In order to avoid that kind of social dislocation in other countries the United Nations, for that specific reason, declared last year International Youth Year.

In Canada we celebrated International Youth Year, sponsored by a Minister who was supposed to be an advocate of youth and who had the responsibility for focusing the concerns of this nation of the needs of young people. We know the sad litany of truths about the real intent of the Ministry of State for Youth. The Minister of Justice talked about hypocrisy. What would be more hypocritical than to have 700,000 young people unemployed, many without a hope for the future? The Ministry exploits the office, not for the purpose of helping youth but to assure the recruitment to the Progressive Conservative Party of the young people of this country.

We have had hypocrisy from this Government until it is falling out of our ears. This is a Government that has been described as accident prone. No Government would be as accident prone as this Government if it were determined to follow reasonable principles of integrity and commitment to the needs of the people. The way in which the young people of Canada have been treated by the Ministry and the Government is a shame for which the youth are owed an apology.

In response to questions put to the Minister of State for Youth (Mrs. Champagne), we have been told that so much has been done to create jobs for young people and that this new Budget offers so much. If "lie" were not an inappropriate word, I would say that that was the word which could be properly applied to what the Government has done.

Youth are affected in the same way as others by some of the Budget measures. The new 3 per cent surtax will affect young people just as it affects all other people in Canada. Young

people will also be affected by the sales taxes. They will be affected by all the taxes that affect other people. While young people are unemployed, one could have expected some effort on the part of the Government to manifest its interest in young people, not by cutting expenditures which benefit youth but by increasing expenditures for the benefit of youth.

● (1310)

Let us look at what the Government has done. The Minister of State for Youth has claimed that the Canadian Job Strategy is the Government's indication of a commitment to the needs of youth in job creation. My God, listen to this commitment, Mr. Speaker. Some \$160 million or 8.6 per cent of the Budget out of the Canadian Job Strategy has been cut. That is how the Government serves the young people.

The Government tried to pull another dirty trick on the young people. The Government said \$30 million will be put into the census and the young will get jobs. They want 12 week jobs, Mr. Speaker, but they will get six week jobs if they can get the jobs while they are going to school. They will also be in competition with the adults who are also seeking those jobs.

Mr. Rodriguez: Do they have to be Tories?

Mr. McCurdy: That is a good question. Of course, we have an indication that it may be necessary, through the communication of one of their Members, but we will not enter that dispute right now.

In addition to the \$30 million diverted from Challenge 86 to the census, there was an additional cut of \$8.6 million. This is how the Government serves the youth of this country. If one looks at the Budget for the Secretary of State for Youth programs, we find it has been cut by \$22.7 million, a decline of 56.6 per cent. Then, in 1987-1988 an additional \$100 million will be cut from the Canadian Job Strategy. What promise for the future the Government provides for the young people. What promise for jobs? What promise for the future is it providing for the youth?

The Government has failed the future when it failed the youth. The Government has failed them both by this Budget.

Mr. Rodriguez: The Government has failed the test.

Mr. McCurdy: We could talk about the insensitive abolition of Katimavik. We could talk about the sorry litany of things not done for the youth but to the youth. The youth, we are told, by the Government, must be the human resources for future economic development. That is what the Government thinks of the youth. The youth are resources like fish, trees and soil. That is the Government's view. The Government does not address the human concern that the young should be properly educated, properly trained with the skills by which to build the country and so have successful and creative lives for themselves.

If we look at what the Government has done with the universities we will see that they are a shambles. In one university we visited the lights are being taken out of reading