

*Supply*

showing enough restraint, and we are still going \$30 billion a year into debt or \$60,000 a minute. Would the member comment, please?

**Mr. Parent:** Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his question. The hon. member himself is quite an outspoken advocate of tax cuts for the people of Canada. He did mention, if I understood him correctly, that I was interested only in the short term, the next 60 days, the next 90 days.

Nothing could be further from the truth. As a matter of fact, throughout my speech I said repeatedly that what we are looking for are solutions now which will help in the long run. When I talk about our students being able to compete, I suggest to the hon. member that they will not be able to compete if they are forever being thrust to one side. If we listen only to the market forces, if we are going to be dictated to as a nation only by the bottom line and by the almighty dollar sign, then I say to you, Mr. Speaker, and to all members in this House that we are short-changing our youth. We are not giving them a chance to get an education and we are not giving them a chance to get the tools so that they can compete in today's world.

**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, before I start I would like to underline the fact that I am pleased with the tone adopted by my hon. colleague in his speech on this very important subject. I do hope this tone will prevail for the rest of the day because we are dealing with a very important subject. I am particularly pleased with two of the suggestions he made in his speech, the first one being that he and I understand his party want to be helpful. Obviously I will be listening throughout today. I hope there are some suggestions that are helpful. I will certainly listen to them very carefully and analyse them even more carefully.

On the other hand, the hon. member also said you have to look at the facts. I think this is also a very important thing that has to be done because some of the facts are there and, if you want to be helpful, you have to start with the facts before you make suggestions.

[*Translation*]

So, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the member for Welland—St. Catharines—Thorold for tabling a motion that gives me the opportunity to recount once again the

government's efforts to improve the employment situation for young Canadians. I do wonder, however, where the honourable member of the Opposition has been for the past few months, because the wording of his motion suggests to me that he has little knowledge of the scope of our efforts and the tangible results that have been achieved despite the recession we have witnessed this year. In any event, my predecessors and myself like the Minister of Employment and Immigration, those between the ages of 15 and 24 and have gone to considerable lengths to explain the various measures the government has taken to alleviate the problem.

It is important to remember, Mr. Speaker, that the main reason so many young people are currently without jobs or have few prospects for the future is that far too many young people do not complete high school. It is our belief that there are job openings, but not enough qualified people to fill them.

In light of that circumstance, we have chosen to focus our efforts on addressing the drop-out rate and eliminating the problem at the source.

In the 1991-92 fiscal year, we will spend \$218 million on programs aimed at young people. Bear in mind, this total is over and above the funding under the Canadian Job Strategy, half of whose clients are young people. While this is a considerable amount, knowing how these funds are to be used is far more important than dwelling on mere numbers.

I would therefore like to describe in detail, Mr. Speaker, those of our initiatives that help young Canadians improve their chances of establishing a place for themselves in the labour market.

[*English*]

Earlier this year we allocated \$143 million to Challenge '91, the summer employment program for students. Despite cutbacks in other areas, the youth program funding was not affected and the Challenge funding saw a modest increase over last year. The Challenge program has been in place for seven years. Its main objective is to encourage employers in all sectors to create rewarding jobs that provide young people with real learning opportunities. The program allows thousands of young Canadians to gain valuable work experience and contribute to the cost of their education. In addition, Challenge offers a wide range of benefits for employers including labour market information, com-