

at a Liberal and Federal Government, while the people responsible for providing training programs, and for educating young people for 15, 16, 17, 18 or 19 years and supposedly preparing them for the labour market, are members of their own parties and happen to head our provincial governments. Those are the people to whom the Canadian Government has given a blank cheque to prepare our youth for the future, and they now criticize us because all that they have succeeded in doing is to put on the labour market untrained young people due to the lack of foresight or vision of provincial authorities.

I have no objection if someone wants to say to the Canadian Government: You must do more. We are indeed trying to do more. I do not agree, however, when someone tries to hide the truth from the Canadian people and to suggest that the Federal Government is to blame if young people today have greater problems than other members of our society. I have often been attacked in the past by members of other political parties because the Canadian Government allocated funds to young people in order to launch projects and set up cooperatives, corporations or non-profit organizations for humanitarian purposes, and so on. Such programs have often been branded as band-aid programs because funds were allocated to young people who had decided to help themselves. When the Federal Government said that it wanted to ensure not only freedom of speech, but also freedom of action to those who wanted to try something new, it was accused of taking stopgap measures. I can now laugh about it because the same people, namely the leaders of the Parti Québécois, who used to accuse us of every fault and of taking band-aid measures because of programs such as Canada Works and Opportunities for Youth, are now saying that they want to organize a summit of young Quebecers to learn what young people are thinking. I find this pure nonsense. One thing is certain, Mr. Speaker, I shall attend the summit of young Quebecers and young Liberals will also be there working. Why? Because the Liberal Party of Canada has always allowed young people to express themselves directly without requiring them to wave the banner of separatism or to wear maple leaves or fleur-de-lis, because it believes in human relationship and the basic concept that two heads are better than one and that, with all our resources, millions of Canadians together, regardless of their age, can work wonders.

Today, the New Democratic Party condemns the Canadian Government, that New Democratic Party which has shamelessly jumped on the bandwagon of Mr. McDermott and his cronies, a bunch of people who do not want to see much further than the end of their noses. That same Party now wants to take to task a Government which for many years has been spending millions of dollars to help young people enjoy their place under the sun like anyone else.

We know when we go back home, when we go back to our ridings . . . Over the weekend I gave a small lunch talk to nearly 400 people on Sunday morning at Alma. I took that opportunity to announce that the Canadian Government will allocate \$492,000 this summer under Youth Canada projects

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and that 261 students will have jobs. I did not make that announcement in the spirit of someone who was bringing gifts, but rather in the spirit of someone who thought that those young people who are now university or college students have an outstanding productive capacity and they represent the future. They are fully aware of their own problems and they are quite capable of proving it if they are given the chance. That is exactly what the Government did—it gave them confidence in themselves.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that we live in a society in constant evolution and progressing ever more rapidly towards electronic and mechanical improvement. We are entering the era of automation and, as I said, we have provided ourselves with a security structure over the years, with the result that one or two generations of our society have pulled much of that security blanket to their side to cover their own future.

Everything goes well until the day when the birth rate drops by almost 50 per cent in the country and, although we think that the labour market will easily absorb young people in the 1980s, it may turn out to be somewhat more difficult as a result of automation in the industrial sector and practically everywhere else. But the main thing is indeed to seek the experience which we can learn from young people. This may sound paradoxical, but it is pure truth. We know that young people have learned much in the past ten years. They have learned that there are very important values in life, more so than work itself. They also learned to respect themselves and to respect others who were relatively better off, but they are doing all this with a patience that will bring about a complete restructuring of our industry, based on optimism, on local initiative and on private enterprise. That is exactly what the Canadian Government announced in the Budget last week and that is what it wants to do.

Private enterprise, coupled with our native optimism . . . If our pessimists would stop talking about deficits and having Canadians believe that when the Government has a deficit, everyone is in debt, if our pessimists would only stop talking about a recession and if Canadians would start taking the economy in their own hands, by taking their savings out of the bank and spending and investing, they could take advantage of some very real investment opportunities in the last Budget. The Canadian Government is well aware that part of the problem facing our young people is that unfortunately, Canadians have often found it easier to invest in a trip to Florida than to buy \$3,000 worth of shares in a company. That is a major part of the problem facing our young people today, and I wish that from now on, Canadians would realize that the reason why today, two or three generations of Canadians have been able to find jobs easily is that Canadians before them worked their fingers to the bone and as soon as they had five cents, they spent it in Canada and concentrated all their energies on developing their own country and developing our