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That is the tragedy we are facing today. If we look at the unemployment statistics we find the group that is being hit the hardest is young people. A study recently in Ontario showed that young people between the ages of 15 and 24 have been hit the hardest by the recession. Between 1989 and 1992 some 84 per cent of the job losses in Ontario were by people between the ages of 15 and 24. That is amazing. The other 16 per cent were by people aged 25 and over. In other words for about 40 years, from 25 to 65, the job loss total is about 16 per cent of the losses in Ontario while for those people 10 years younger, between 15 and 24, it is 84 per cent. Some 17.8 per cent of our young people in that category are unemployed.

When people are unemployed, not working and psychologically depressed because of their situation we run into all kinds of problems. That is when racism mounts in the country and around the world. When people are in despair, when there is a poverty, when there are food banks and when people are lined up at welfare offices is when racism mounts in a country. We have seen that throughout history.

During bad times people look for scapegoats. During bad times people tend to strike out against minorities: visible minorities, religious minorities and other minorities. That is what has happened throughout the course of human history. We are seeing that in spades in this country. On Saturday night in this city we saw a race riot. Neo-fascists came here to celebrate, raise money and parade through the streets. That is what we are now seeing in the national capital. It is a sad commentary on Canada, the greatest country in the world in terms of our resources, our people, our skills and our know-how, that now about a quarter of our people are on welfare, unemployed or underemployed.

• (1640)

Another thing is education. The member across the way said that fewer people are dropping out of school now than were dropping out in 1984. We still see far too many people dropping out of school. Far too many people are saying: "Why should I bother?" They know an engineer or somebody with a university degree who is driving a taxi or who is unemployed.

I heard about a case today of an engineer who has been unemployed for five years. He was working at odd jobs

and painting houses. If young persons see that particular engineer, a person with a skill, with two or three university degrees or a trade, still being unemployed, it does not motivate them to better themselves, to get an education or try to acquire skills for a job market that is non-existent.

Those are the problems we have. We have to turn all our energies, all our imagination and all our resources toward creating jobs and building a stronger and broader economy for all Canadians. We have to channel the resources of our federal, provincial and municipal governments, of our labour, farm and private sectors toward the task of economic development and creating long-term meaningful jobs for people.

We need more value added. We have to do more things and build more things. We have to be more innovative in terms of technologies, new products and new resources than we have been in the past.

We can learn from other countries around the world, from the Japanese, the Europeans and the Americans, in terms of putting more money into things that would create jobs on a long-term basis. Compared with most countries in the world we spend very little on training and retraining our workers. It is extremely important, particularly for young people, to train workers for the new technologies and the new skills out there.

The member for Ontario said a few minutes ago he picked up a paper and saw companies in his riding advertising for people with all kinds of skills: computer skills, computer knowledge, computer sciences and so on. If those jobs are available it is important we train our workers so they can find and accept those jobs. If we compare ourselves to the Swedes, the Germans, the French and the Japanese, we find in almost every comparison between us and other countries in the western world that we spend a lot less on training our workers for the new technology, the new realities, than do those countries.

We spend a lot less as a country on investing in research and development in Canada. Almost every other European country will spend more than we do in terms of research and development and product innovation. We could build more here. We could add more value to our products. We spend very little compared with most countries around the world.