

*Oral Questions*

economic mismanagement are supposed to apply for a new job?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member knows very well that the restructuring going on here in Canada is also going on in other countries, particularly the G-7 countries. That is what all the G-7 countries are faced with. There has been a three million increase in the number of unemployed in the G-7 countries in the last two years.

I think the hon. member would also share the view that as productivity increases the number of jobs declines, relatively speaking. There has been a pick up in the telecommunications and service sectors and that is how there has been 1.3 million new jobs created over the last four to five years.

Indeed, the new economy, the economy of the future will be perhaps less reliant upon manufacturing, albeit it will be a very important component. Relatively speaking, the service sector, the high-technology sector, the electronics sector, the information technology as we refer to it from time to time, is part and parcel of the replacement for some of those manufacturing jobs.

**Mr. Jim Peterson (Willowdale):** Mr. Speaker, the minister has just told this House that according to him the decline in our manufacturing employment, which has been 17 per cent since free trade, is just the result of global trends. Why then has Canada lost manufacturing jobs at twice the rate of the Americans?

I want to ask this minister, does he really believe we can have a strong Canadian economy if we do not have a strong manufacturing sector? Manufacturing sectors are the backbone of every one of our leading competitors in the world.

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, of course we need a strong manufacturing sector and that is why we disbanded the manufacturers' sales tax which was a hidden silent killer of jobs. That is why we brought in the GST which has improved the competitive position of the manufacturing sector by \$3.5 billion. That is why we negotiated liberalized trading arrangements with Mexico and the United States to ensure we would have access to those markets.

I am pleased the hon. member has recognized that we have provided in the budget incentives for the manufacturing sector in terms of a reduction in taxes and improvements in the capital cost allowance which further improves the competitiveness of the manufacturing sector. It clearly demonstrates we do take the manufacturing—

**Mr. Speaker:** I think we must move on.

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**YOUTH**

**Mr. Maurizio Bevilacqua (York North):** Mr. Speaker, young Canadians are facing a national crisis. As the Prime Minister celebrates his eighth year in office, over 450,000 young people are unemployed. Every year 100,000 young people drop out of high school and thousands more are denied access to post-secondary education and training.

Why does the Prime Minister not realize his programs have been those of anguish and despair? Why does he refuse to address the concerns of young Canadians?

**Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, when the hon. member refers to help for young Canadians, he should look at—

[*Translation*]

—the panoply of programs that have been put in place to help these young Canadians stay in school.

[*English*]

One is the stay-in-school initiative. I think there are over 450 START programs all across Canada led by youth trying to keep them in school. The training effort has more than tripled in the last three years by this government.

The Liberals stand in this House asking for more for youth. They opposed for a year and a half spending hundreds more millions of dollars on training Canadians. That is what we have done. They resisted that. Today the hon. member stands up and complains, but I think that Canadians can see their game.

**Mr. Maurizio Bevilacqua (York North):** Mr. Speaker, I travel throughout Canada listening to young people. I can tell you that this generation is extremely disappointed in the actions of this government. Eight years after the promise of jobs, jobs, jobs, young people in