

**OFFICIAL REPORT (HANSARD)**

*Thursday, June 16, 2005*

**Conservative Party Youth Caucus**

**Ms. Ruby Dhalla (Brampton—Springdale, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, in March of this year, the Conservative Party, led by members of the Conservative caucus, rejected a youth wing for the party but today they announced a club for their own self-styled youthful caucus.

Did those caucus members feel threatened? Did they feel that the Reform-Alliance takeover--

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Brampton—Springdale has the floor.

**Ms. Ruby Dhalla:** Mr. Speaker, the Conservative Party caucus members certainly were not cheering last month at their convention.

Many of the Conservative members felt that the Reform-Alliance takeover of the Progressive Conservative Party would be exposed by the Progressive Conservative youth wing and yet they have actually formed a caucus.

It is quite interesting that the Conservative Party voted against the youth wing at its previous convention. One former member of the Progressive Conservative Party youth wing actually said the following:

"I'm not sure what they were thinking... It makes no sense philosophically or strategically...Every party in the western world has a youth wing--every mainstream party...We should be encouraging young people to get involved."

This was said by a Progressive Conservative Party member and I could not say it better myself.