

Adjournment Debate

homeless. The jobless rate for teenagers since August, 1984, has dropped 4.4 per cent. That did not happen by magic. It is as a result of planning, programming, and Government agencies and departments looking at needs and how they can be met. Because of such programs as the Canadian Jobs Strategy and the Youth Employment Program, led by the Minister of State for Youth (Mr. Charest), there has been an attack on unemployment among the youth.

The Member says that the Minister did this with fanfare. Would it help to initiate Government programs if people do not find out about them? It seems to me patently obvious that in order to design programs and reach youth we must find ways to publicize them. It may seem like fanfare to the Hon. Member, but we must broadcast that kind of news if we are to tackle this issue.

I also point out that the Secretary of State (Mr. Crombie) just returned from Saskatoon where he has been meeting with a task force on post-secondary education, trying to tackle the whole matter of illiteracy or partial illiteracy in order that we can deal with this important issue.

The other side of the issue is the homeless. On any one day in the City of Ottawa one can find a thousand homeless. There are agencies in Ottawa that are trying to bring those homeless to a place of shelter, but more important, a place of meaning. It is not enough to say that we must provide shelter, we must also ask why they are homeless. Many of these young people are 17, 16, 15 or younger. Why are they not at home with their parents? Why are they runaways? That is the question with which agencies, like the diocesan priest, are wrestling. How do we get them back to the shelter of their home where they belong? What is the conflict that has arisen between them and their parents that they have run away?

● (1810)

Those are the social issues governments cannot solve but which this Government is trying to tackle by bringing an undergirding to the family structure so that families feel good about being families and become knit together. That is why the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Epp) is taking his time with the child care program. We want to have a child care program which provides a sense of security about how those children are going to be cared for in day care centres. They will find, then, that they feel good about themselves and they will not feel the need to run away from home, which really is the problem, I think the Hon. Member would agree.

The problem is that young people want to run away from home. We have to deal with that so that we do not have to talk about homeless young people in our society.

[Translation]

TRADE—FREE TRADE—POSITION OF SOCIALIST PARTY IN 1965

Mr. Gabriel Fontaine (Lévis): Mr. Speaker, on October 21, 1987, I asked the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr.

Clark) to explain to us the position of the socialist party in 1965 when the Auto Pact was signed.

As you know, the socialist party then objected to the Auto Pact, just as it now objects to the free trade agreement.

It is important for the public to know what the socialist party had forecast in 1965 if free trade were implemented in the automobile industry. I now refer, Mr. Speaker, to *Hansard* for May 10, 1965, when Mr. Tommy Douglas, who was then Leader of the CCF, which was a socialist party, and it is the same party today, had this to say about the Auto Pact: "The other criticism we have of this Agreement is that it appears to make no provision at all for the employees in the automobile industry who will be displaced as a result of it."

This is what the leader of the socialist party said in 1965 and we are now hearing exactly the same negative speech from the heirs of Mr. Douglas. Yet, what has happened because of the Auto Pact since 1965? Canadian automobile exports to the United States now amount to \$33 billion. In other words, more than a third of our total exports, thanks to the Auto Pact. Those \$33 billion of exports account for 7 per cent of our Gross National Product and for 840,000 jobs, most of them centralized in southern Ontario, specifically in the socialist party leader's riding Oshawa. Those jobs are centralized in a community where, at present, unemployment is less than 3 per cent and where General Motors has decided to invest \$2 billion.

Mr. Speaker, it is difficult to understand the position taken by the socialist party in 1965 when it was against to free trade in the automotive industry. It is still opposed to free trade today, anticipating the same disasters, such as jobs lost, etc., whereas it did not happen since 840,000 new jobs have resulted from that agreement. Today, it is opposed to the benefits that free trade has brought about in the automotive industry since 1965. Those benefits, incidentally, were implemented and negotiated by the same negotiator, Ambassador Reisman, who is in charge of present negotiations. That party is opposed to the possible economic spin-off which will benefit other Canadian workers throughout Canada.

It was said in the House, Mr. Speaker, that members from the socialist party have a grudge against Western Canada. In fact, they have a grudge against the whole country because their leader is only interested in his own riding of Oshawa and its immediate surroundings. The socialists don't want the benefits of the Auto Pact to be extended to all Canadians, and to make their negative representations, they are using the money of workers in the automobile industry who earn good salaries and pay dues to big unions, to Bob White's union. They want to use that money. They are paying for advertising across the country and they are using the money of workers who enjoy the benefits of free trade in the automobile industry. They are using it to oppose the ratification of an agreement with United States, because they are living quite handsomely, those socialists Mr. Speaker, they are Bob White's soldiers. These people in the House are saying only what their financial