

*Business of Supply*

These people want to stay in Canada, and they are people Canada needs. Enrolments at our colleges and universities continue to grow. In the present academic year, 1968-69, I believe there are over 250,000 students enrolled at universities and colleges and another 178,000 enrolled at various other post-secondary institutions in the country.

I cannot conceive of any failure more glaring than our failure to use the services of Canadians whom we educate. We are failing to provide an opportunity for these people to remain in Canada to contribute to Canada's growth and development. In such circumstances we must be very dissatisfied with the course of our economic and scientific development. There must be something seriously wrong when a country like Canada, which is trying to develop rapidly and is borrowing large amounts of capital to assist it to do so, nevertheless appears to be unable to utilize the services of a very substantial proportion of the people we are training and educating in Canada. I suggest this indicates that there is something seriously out of whack in our country.

A related problem is the really bleak and depressing situation so far as summer jobs for students are concerned. It is difficult to get accurate information as to the number of students seeking summer employment. One hears figures ranging from 400,000 to 600,000 and higher. Certainly the figures for those who were not successful last summer are grim enough.

Unemployment generally in this country has risen since then and opportunities for students have been adversely affected. A couple of weeks ago the situation in Ontario was summed up in a news article in this way:

An estimated 357,000 Ontario students will be competing for summer jobs with more than 100,000 other unemployed people this year.

The government of Ontario has, of course, appealed to employers throughout the province to make an extra effort. The federal Department of Manpower and Immigration is conducting, rather belatedly I must say, an advertising and promotional campaign. Despite the experience of last summer the problem has been allowed to lie until the eve of the closing down of schools without any attempt being made to develop a program to meet it. One of the basic root causes goes unattended, the lagging rate of economic growth which apparently is not even acknowledged—in fact, it seems to be denied—by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson) and the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau)

[Mr. Stanfield.]

who continue to say: "Everything is going according to plan; our policies are working well."

The fact about summer employment for students is that there are many families and students to whom the failure to obtain a summer job means the difference between these students continuing or interrupting their education. It is nothing short of tragic that the education of young Canadians should be allowed to terminate for this reason. Unfortunately, that seems to be happening. It is happening especially with many young married couples where either one or both partners are trying to continue their university education.

• (3:40 p.m.)

I suggest it is not enough for the department to buy advertising space in the newspapers a few weeks before the summer recess. There will be a drastic shortage of summer jobs for students for the second summer in a row, and the lack of jobs is bound to affect the educational careers of many young Canadians. The problem is likely to grow in severity. Therefore I and other hon. members want to know today what the government intends to do about the matter. What plans are being considered to increase or strengthen programs of student aid in the country to overcome difficulties which are likely to increase in severity? Has the government considered any changes? Has it any plans to meet with the provinces to discuss possible changes? These are questions to which hon. members are entitled to hear answers. Surely this is an area in which the federal government could obtain the views of the provinces and give them leadership.

The situation in Ontario, because of its size, is serious enough, but the problem is extremely intense in areas of the country with slower growth which can less afford supplementary programs to encourage summer employment of students. In those areas jobs are likely to fall particularly short of requirements. There, many of the students come from families earning lower than average incomes.

I need not dwell on the fact that Canada cannot afford to lose these people. In an open economy like Canada's we must export. We know that technologically based industries are accounting for an increasingly large share of world trade. We ought to know that in Canada we are still not developing a technology-based economy and the people to develop it rapidly enough. This point was made very directly in an article last Thursday