

Supply

attempts to put some semblance of order into a very chaotic changeover in our society. This does not necessarily mean that I think both authors have all the answers for Government and Members of Parliament attempting to come to grips with the problems created by the technological revolution in all sectors of our economy.

The Hon. Member for Saskatoon East mentioned that he wished there was some sort of forum where the best of our futurist thinkers could put their heads together and decide how the world economy is evolving. I agree because in today's complex society I believe that Government needs lead time to decide on policies that are better than the band-aid solutions which, as I frequently have to admit to my constituents in Sudbury, are not much more than stop-gap measures. They give us time to adjust to the technological changes that both Government and business have difficulty in coming to grips with, regardless of the sector of the economy, be it mining, agriculture or manufacturing.

I think it is safe to say that there is no Member of Parliament who does not have a youth unemployment problem in his riding. During my three years here it is one of the most difficult things I have had to come to grips with. When I have to replace an assistant, for instance, I look at the 60 or 70 resumés that I keep on file. Many of the applicants have masters degrees and are not working at all or are in work which is not related to the discipline they studied in university or community college.

Today the young people of Canada are facing an extremely serious situation trying to find their place in the labour market. It is with some regret that I say the situation is likely to exist for the next two or three years. Their problem is also Canada's problem because on our youth rests the economic future of the country. Their potential skills are essential to the well-being of the country.

An economic recovery is now taking place. I was surprised to see a Thompson newspaper with the courage to publish the kind of headline that appeared in this morning's *Globe and Mail*. Normally all they have been doing, in my view, is to place a negative interpretation on any Government policies that have been instituted to deal with our problems over the last three years. It now appears that all the indicators show that we are going to come out of this recession much quicker than was anticipated. However, as always, the recovery in youth employment will lag behind the unemployment rate of adults. That has been true throughout our economic history. In times of economic recession young people are the first to be laid off and the last to be rehired in an economic recovery. This is mainly because they have little experience and virtually no seniority.

From a federal Government standpoint, we realize the extent of the problem in the country. At the same time, when placing a budget before the public, we recognize that other constituents have needs that must be addressed because they also have valid concerns about the way in which Government programs should be tailored for them as well.

I can say that we are doing as much as we can in order to lower somewhat the youth unemployment rate in the country.

If we take a look at the unemployment rate for youth between the ages of 15 and 24, we find that it is somewhere between 25 per cent and 30 per cent. I suppose you could argue effectively that there is nothing that the Government can do which would be good enough in order to put a serious dent in that unemployment rate among our youth.

• (1710)

What I would like to do is to outline to the people of Canada, its youth in particular, the programs which are specifically designed for them because I believe one of the problems we have in the House as Members of Parliament is that there is a multitude of Government programs which are specifically geared for certain segments of our population, and often, although the programs are there, the people are not sufficiently aware of them to use them effectively. As an example, this year the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission alone will be spending more than \$1 billion on programs and services for youth. That is an increase of some 25.4 per cent over the year before.

Although we have heard mention before that the six and five program has dampened, in some cases, the amounts of moneys placed in university budgets in terms of the commitment of this Government to solve the overwhelming number one problem in this country, that is, inflation, the 25.4 per cent increase over last year's budget should indicate to Canadians that we view this problem of our youth unemployment in a serious way. We are making the greatest increase in money going toward that program as compared to any others we have in the present budget.

There are various programs available to our youth. One that comes to mind is the Canada Community Development Projects or CCDP. We have the NEED Program which is specifically designed for those Canadians or youth who are about to run out of UIC benefits. We have instituted that special program, NEED in order to help those individuals. One of the most successful programs—and I believe that is recognized by most Hon. Members in the House—is the introduction of Summer Canada. This year there is an increase in the amount of money placed into Summer Canada which specifically flows to our Canadian youth. We have had previously, I believe, good examples of programs such as LEAP and the LEDA Program, which provide immediate job assistance for our young people. Something else which has been instituted in the last couple of years by this Government is what we call the specialized youth units. They are among the new initiatives we have recently adopted. They are specifically designed to assist young people between the ages of 15 and 19 in gaining access to the labour market. These units have been established in some ten locations across the country, and five more are in the process of being established. In 1983-84, \$10 million will be channelled to these units. Through specialized counselling and referral services, more than 43,000 young people will find employment this summer. These are what we term as chronically unemployed youth. We will aid them in setting realistic