

Measures to Improve Economy

ment went ahead trying to cure inflation by massive doses of unemployment. They gambled with the economy and lost.

In March their own member for Trinity (Mr. Hellyer) told the House that the government's policies to deal with unemployment and inflation had been a near economic disaster and a total moral disaster. While there had been a more modest rate of price increases as a result—and I may say a temporary result—the main beneficiaries of the exercise, he said, had been the people with money, and those who had suffered were the unemployed. Young Canadians, too, have suffered, he said, pointing out that last year's economic slowdown resulted in lost economic activity of \$3.5 billion, an amount which, if it had been properly spent, could have provided the base for 100,000 new jobs.

But the government did not limit its reckless activities to the economy. It has gambled and is still gambling with the lives of 22 million Canadians. This government, in spite of its show of bravado, is losing ground steadily. But its loss is as nothing compared with the losses being sustained by the Canadian people. The plight of the elderly, the sick, the handicapped, the veterans, those on low fixed incomes, families on social assistance, and the unemployed is tragic and deepening with every move this gambling government makes.

Today, I want to speak particularly of the cost to young people from coast to coast. They are suffering now and because of their situation our whole Canadian future is in danger. Last fall there were plenty of warnings given after the summer we went through. Dr. Baetz of the Canadian Social Development Council gave figures to indicate that most likely there would be larger numbers of unemployed again this summer. His figures were underestimations. The figures for April of this year showed an 11,000 reduction in the number of unemployed aged 55 years or more, but a sharp increase in the number of younger workers looking for jobs. For those under 25 years, the seasonally adjusted rate of unemployment went up from 11.1 per cent in March to 12.3 per cent in April, and there were 57,000 more of them unemployed in April than there were a year ago.

• (4:50 p.m.)

As already mentioned in this debate, Arthur Smith, Chairman of the Economic Council of Canada, has warned that unemployment will be excessive for at least three years. Last year's figures showed a large number of unemployed young people. A release issued at the end of summer by the Department of Manpower showed that of 179,000 students registered across Canada for employment at the peak of summer, 68 per cent of them found jobs, 32 per cent were still seeking work, and of these 27 per cent were post-secondary students and 73 per cent were high school students. It was the high school students who had to bear the brunt of the unemployment catastrophe.

That was the situation last summer. The picture now has become even more sombre, because this year unemployment has reached up into the ranks of college gradu-

[Mrs. MacInnis.]

ates. It got there last year but is making a heavier impact this year. In April, a report was issued by the Science Council of Canada, not a rabble rousing body but a group of people who consider themselves to be very cautious and careful in the figures they use. This is what the report said in essence:

Half of the 14,000 or so students graduating from Canadian universities in science and engineering this year will not be "effectively utilized," according to a study prepared for the Science Council of Canada.

This figure includes graduates at the bachelor's, master's and Ph.D. level.

About 400 of the 1,200 to 1,500 post-graduate students who will receive PhD's this year could be in surplus.

Prospects for PhD's next year are bleaker. The most optimistic prediction is that 500 of the 1,800 science and engineering PhD's will be in surplus.

The outlook for the next few years is just as gloomy.

In the face of this, I do not see how there can be such whistling in the dark in such a cheerful way by members on the government benches. It is another case where there are none so blind as those who will not see, and none so deaf as those who will not hear. It is no longer just the problem of summer employment for young people that is in front of us. The cold truth of the matter is that society no longer has a place for growing numbers of young people. Under the government's policies young people are being discarded, like old cars on the junk heaps of industry. That is what has been happening to them.

I can tell hon. members on the government benches what is happening. I will take my own province of British Columbia as an example. In a memorandum dated April 8 of this year to the Vancouver City Council dealing with the subject of single transients, aged 18 to 25 years, in British Columbia, the Board of Administration reported some chilling facts.

In 1965 the 25 and under age group represented 2.5 per cent of the total population in receipt of social assistance. By 1970, this 18 to 25 year old population represented 11.4 per cent of the total receiving social assistance, an increase of almost 500 per cent in the five year period.

Population figures for British Columbia show that in the next five years there will be a peak population of 203,000 aged 15 to 19 as compared with the present population in this age group of 182,400.

What is going to happen to the social assistance figures for British Columbia? What is going to happen to the social assistance figures for every municipality across Canada? What is going to happen to the taxpayers' ability to foot the bill? More important, what is going to happen to our young people? What is going to happen to our society? In this connection studies have been going on in British Columbia for some time, and they show what is happening right now. I can tell hon. members opposite the sort of thing that is going on now, and what their policies are doing to the young people of this country.

These studies in my own city of Vancouver show that a new style of life has been evolving for some time, a welfare life style among young people. It already is affecting about 15 per cent of a large sample of the