

Anti-Inflation Policies

standard of living, and this makes everyone in Canada who is concerned for his fellow man very concerned. No wonder the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) has given up his slogan of "the just society"; it does not mean anything any more, and as far as I am concerned it never did. It was just an election gimmick. After a year and a half he has come to the same conclusion that I have, that it is now necessary to have action, some commitment by way of deeds, instead of slogans.

The government seems to prefer to pollute our human resources and this will result inevitably in the destruction of our potential as a nation in terms both of human initiative and economic development. As a result of this attitude on the part of the government there is an increasing confrontation between adults and our youth, both of which groups are seeking work. There are some 500,000 people who are about ready to seek a place in the labour market, but as a result of the attitude taken by the government they discover a battle is going on between the adult, who requires work to bring home the necessary bread, money to pay the rent and to look after his family, and the student who desires work in order to pursue his education.

We have yet to learn of any legislation designed to widen and to improve employment prospects for those young Canadians who continuously flood the labour market. Little has been suggested to assist those already in the labour force to adjust to the changed conditions of the market resulting from technological advances, and this notwithstanding the manpower training program.

Let me again make reference to a statement made by the Economic Council of Canada. In its September, 1969, review the council states:

Looking to the future, employment would have to grow by at least 2.5 per cent a year over the next few years, compared with 2.1 per cent in 1968, merely to match the growth in the population of working age without any allowance for an increase in participation rates. Allowing for the participation rate increase incorporated in our potential output analysis, employment would have to grow by at least 3 per cent per year to avoid the additional unemployment and somewhat faster to reduce unemployment.

The Economic Council then goes on to note, as far as our young people are concerned, that notwithstanding youth, unemployment rates are substantially lower than they were in the late 1950s and early 1960s, when the

over-all rate of unemployment was very high. It goes on to emphasize:

Nevertheless the existing high rates of unemployment among young Canadians not only represents a waste of some of our most valuable human resources and a potential source of social instability, but also partly reflect a failure on the part of our society to bring young people quickly and effectively into active participation in the economic life of our country.

The council goes on to indicate that there is, therefore, a need to develop much more effective measures to bridge the present disturbing gaps between school enrolment and productive employment, especially with very large numbers of young people emerging from the educational system. No wonder there is a revolt among our youth! Our basic institutions, such as our churches, our schools and our government are being attacked because they do not seem, to use the language of youth, really to be "with it".

Reading reports of the council over the years, the term "full employment" is continually emphasized. This phrase is coupled with a strong affirmation that it is one of the principal keys to Canada's future. Here on the council is a group of men learned in many subjects and who have been directed to advise the government. Yet the government continues to ignore solutions to the many problems that the age of Aquarius has brought to this great land of ours.

Canada is still a comparatively young country, a young and lusty nation with a vast potential for providing the good life for her citizens and for many people beyond her borders. Most, if not all of our problems could be alleviated or banished for good if a determined national effort were carried on to develop this great potential. I suggest this is what the government should do. It should develop our potential instead of creating unemployment. Certainly this policy would be much sounder and more acceptable.

If a comprehensive policy of national development were given top priority in this country, we would have the assets and the tax base required to give us all the social amenities that are necessary to sustain the world's highest standard of living. This appears so obvious in a country such as ours as to need no emphasis whatever. Yet national development has been relegated to the bottom of the list of concerns of the federal government. The government is more concerned with abortion, homosexuality—

An hon. Member: And marijuana.