

Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi): They bought something that looked good on the surface.

Mr. Epp: That hon. member makes more speeches sitting down than on his feet. I wonder if tonight is his night to make his debut.

The government has introduced programs like CYC, and they have gone on year after year. Finally I can give the government credit for ending CYC. The point is, why start it in the first place? Was it a political sop for a specific group of people to gain their support?

Mr. Brisco: The Prime Minister's friends.

Mr. MacFarlane: He is your best resource, more important than oil or anything else.

Mr. Brisco: The Prime Minister?

Mr. MacFarlane: No, you.

Mr. Epp: I think we should be careful when we talk about the Prime Minister's friends in this august body.

Mr. Neil: He hasn't any friends left.

Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi): Don't bet your last buck on that.

Mr. Parent: Call it ten o'clock, Jake.

Mr. Epp: I thank the hon. member for St. Catharine's (Mr. Parent). He just showed us that he does have some intelligence, a trait he has not shown here before.

The point which has to be made is that the type of student who applied under programs such as the CYC was not from lower income groups. Lower income students needed summer jobs and part time jobs while they were going to school. They needed summer jobs if they were to continue their studies the following year. Applications to CYC were made after the New Year, and very often approvals were not announced until just before the end of the university year at the end of April or beginning of May.

Students from lower income groups who had to have money to continue school the following year could not apply anyhow, and more often than not students of middle and upper income families were the ones who received grants under OFY or CYC. Those programs were not helping those students who could not further their education if they were unable to get summer employment which paid them adequately.

What about the Local Initiatives Program? That is another program for which the government is very famous. Last year before the standing committee the former minister, who is now the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Andras), said that LIP would be phased out and that last year was the last year we would see it. He then talked about an ongoing year round full employment strategy. Well, LIP is back with us for this year, and it had to be brought back because of our high unemployment rate.

Restraint of Government Expenditures

Mr. Parent: Did you get any grants in your area?

Mr. Epp: I will talk about that in a minute. The government had to bring back LIP simply to reduce unemployment in specific areas. Those of us who have seen LIP programs finish at the end of May or June know that the tragedy of such programs is that people become dependent on them. There have been many good programs, Mr. Speaker, and I am not going to condemn them. Community halls and arenas have been built. Indeed the list is as long as you would care to make it. Very often because of the short term nature of LIP we find that we have created a dependency on government funding and that the people involved have not made arrangements to step into a permanent job. Sometimes they will take a summer job or go on unemployment insurance with the hope of getting back on a LIP program the next winter. As a result the dependency factor is built in. This is not only degrading to the individual but places him and his family in tremendous difficulty because there is no permanency.

● (2150)

An hon. Member: Are you for it?

Mr. Epp: The hon. member asks if I am for it. I guess that is how Liberals operate—as long as there is payola they are involved. They think that is the essence of government. That is not the essence, Mr. Speaker. Government is not the only vehicle which creates jobs; they are created through the private sector.

The Speech from the Throne talked about a year-round strategy for breaking new ground. I guess what that means is that we spend more and more. But it is taxpayers' money, Mr. Speaker, and as long as we create jobs, short term or long term with taxpayers' money, the dependency factor is there. We have created a dependency factor through UIC, LIP, OFY, CYC, LEAP, and any other program the government has at the present time. This is degrading because it does not allow the individual to function on his own initiative.

Bill C-19 will also put an end to Information Canada, the propaganda institution established by the government to spread the good word about what is happening in the land. Now that it has been abolished and given a burial—I do not believe it was a decent burial because it did not deserve it—the individual departments have picked up the slack and are turning out the propaganda on their own letterheads. The most glaring example was circulated by the Minister of National Health and Welfare. He made a partisan speech—which he is entitled to do of course—and it was circulated across Canada under guise of a release from the Department of National Health and Welfare.

The hon. member for Northumberland-Miramichi (Mr. Dionne) just made the second longest speech of his career—five words.

Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi): At least I know when to quit.