

By MIKE MACKINNON

Unemployment is going up while the rate of enrollment in universities goes down. Where do these students, who are not returning go? Certainly not into the labor force. More than half of the unemployed are between the ages of fifteen and twenty-five; a situation that is getting worse instead of better.

A degree no longer has the value it used to, it does not mean you automatically get a job. Many graduates find that after graduating it is difficult to get a job in their field of training. The number of students who enroll in post-secondary institutions is consistently lower than the projected figures.

Government help basically provides short term help and hides the problem with new tricks instead of asking why the problem occurs and keeps reoccurring.

In 1972:

* The Board of Governors at the University of Calgary was forced to put a freeze on the hiring of academic and athletic staff because of underenrollment.

* The rate of unemployment for people below the age of 25 was higher than the previous year despite the implementation of the Opportunities for Youth Program by the federal government in that year.

* The federal government was forced to subsidize the University of Alberta because their enrollment was down 1200 from the expected number.

* Laurentian University had to freeze its budget and study the impact of the decrease in student enrollment.

There were and are other examples of such cases across the country. These examples show what is becoming a greater tendency among students, staying in the labor field because they cannot afford or do not feel it is worthwhile to return to university. Even though these students are in the job market, only half are able to get into the labor force.

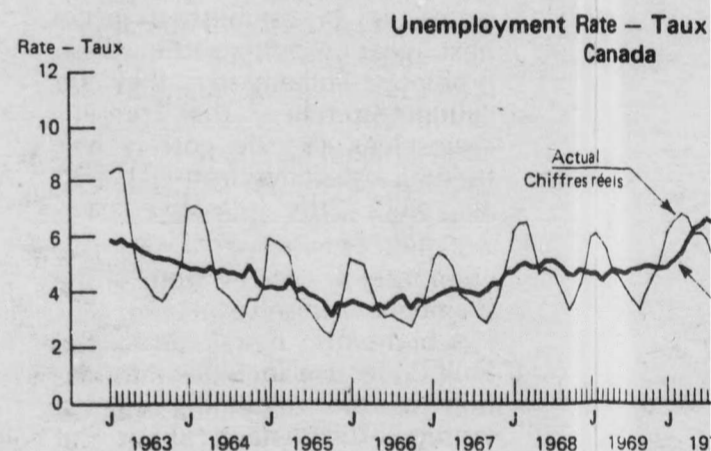
The overall unemployment rate is low compared to unemployment rate of young people. In July of 1972, 10.8 percent of people from 14 to 24 were unemployed, August had a rate of 9.1 percent for this age group. It was a different picture for those over 25, 3.5 percent in July and 3.4 percent in August.

What is government doing about this situation? "Well, it's being looked into." In other words more study groups and task forces are being set to provide the government with an easy way out.

The lower class people appear to be the hardest hit of all people because they cannot afford to get a better education and join the higher job market. It appears that what we have here is a vicious circle that may require the immediate attention of a task force.

What people do not know is

The Unemployment Situation



that there is another group that is just as hard hit. You guessed it! Those people under 25 that we have been discussing. Their unemployment rate has been, on the average, 100 percent more than the national rate. This ratio is slowly but surely increasing. The problem that youth face is very clear if this is combined with the steadily increasing overall rate of unemployment.

There is still a group of unemployed that are not included in the figures from Statistics Canada. These are the hidden unemployed. When fewer jobs become available a large number of young people, especially females, "retire" from the labor force. They may return to school,

go to see the world, most are "retired" - not working or looking for work.

This raises the ratio even higher. So why don't these young people go back to school? Without the jobs the students cannot afford to go back to school. Also, because of lower subsidies from government and industry, universities are required to limit the enrollment by raising entrance standards or else raise tuition.

It was found that not only was the level of enrollment decreasing for freshmen, but the number of students higher than first year dropping out is also increasing.

It has been found that summer job opportunities have become

| YEAR | PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED BREAKDOWN IN CANADA | | | |
|------|---|-----|-------------|-------|
| | NATIONAL | ALL | MALES 14-19 | 20-24 |
| 1961 | 7.1 | 8.4 | 16.6 | 11.9 |
| 1961 | 5.9 | 6.8 | 14.5 | 9.9 |
| 1963 | 5.5 | 6.4 | 14.1 | 9.5 |
| 1964 | 4.7 | 5.3 | 12.2 | 7.8 |
| 1965 | 3.9 | 4.4 | 10.0 | 5.6 |
| 1966 | 3.6 | 4.0 | 9.6 | 5.3 |
| 1967 | 4.1 | 4.6 | 10.9 | 6.1 |
| 1968 | 4.8 | 5.5 | 12.8 | 7.6 |
| 1969 | 4.7 | 5.2 | 12.3 | 7.5 |
| 1970 | 5.9 | 5.6 | 15.0 | 10.5 |