

and now students cannot find jobs. Mr. Speaker, the government has failed those students. And worse, far worse, it has failed the many unemployed people in this country because, in spending those millions and billions of dollars on education, it has deprived the poor and the uneducated of jobs and of a decent life that could have been created if the money had been spent on them.

[Translation]

We might understand why so much was spent on education if at least we had managed to give the poor, the underprivileged and rural citizens a chance to enhance their standard of living. But how can they benefit from it? How can the poor afford to attend university when tuition fees exceed \$500?

There are 476,000 unemployed in Canada, including 212,000 under 25. Are those young people entitled to benefits under the current unemployment insurance program? Let us briefly examine the situation. They are not eligible because they are too young. This is preposterous indeed! To be eligible for unemployment benefits, a chap must have worked 30 weeks during the two previous years, including at least 24 weeks during the last year.

• (3:20 p.m.)

How many young people who just left school and cannot find employment fulfill this condition? Even if they could, they would receive approximately \$40 a week. What happens if they take a federal government sponsored retraining course? They get an average of \$65 a week. The government spends over \$500 million to finance these courses, but can a young unemployed worker be eligible for one? It is very difficult, if not impossible. To do so, he should have completed his studies one year before or have been working for three years.

In fact, only 31 per cent of those who took these courses last year were unemployed workers. The others had provisionally left their position and intended to resume it as soon as the course was over. There is thus no hope for our young people.

What was the reaction of the right hon. Prime Minister in the face of that serious situation? He merely replied, woefully, as usual, and I quote:

Through our fiscal and monetary policies, we can hardly propose to be discriminatory towards the old in order to favour the young.

That reply is shameful and unacceptable, especially coming from a Prime Minister who is a young "little old bachelor".

I urge that students be paid a salary so they will no longer be penalized for being students.

I urge that the government revise its investment policy, that it cease to use it as a marvelous tool for patronage and use it instead to stimulate the economy in particularly underdeveloped areas.

I urge that the liberal government quit wasting our natural resources through inaction and that it set up development programs for areas until now overlooked or neglected, such as Northern Canada for instance.

Employment of Graduate Students

The young people of this country are ready and willing to work; they went to school in order to get the required training. Let the government give them now the opportunity to do something.

The young people are available. The task of building a country appeals to them. But the government should wake up and develop those vast natural resources, thus providing our youth opportunities for the future and allowing Canadians to take advantage of those natural resources.

I urge the government to give equal considerations to the student and the father, and to stop causing discrimination.

I urge the government to stop burying its head in the sand with its economic policy deliberately twisted to hide the real problems, and finally to acquire monetary and financial modern instruments in order to give each human being, whether he is educated or not, a graduate or not, without any regard to his age, sex, the thickness of his wallet or his social rank, economic security while respecting his freedom.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, what have this government and the previous one been doing? They have said to the people during the election campaigns: Go back to school to increase productivity. In fact, they have created a myth out of nothing, deluding the people, making fun of them, creating conditions which they wanted to be temporary while hoping that it would give a semblance of prosperity.

Today, Mr. Speaker, the awakening is brutal. The figures which I quoted earlier clearly show the direct result of the government's economic policy which has done nothing but create unemployment.

I remember that during the federal election campaign, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce appeared on television and radio in Victoriaville and Drummondville and repeated with his usual smile, that the Liberal government was the best tool to fight unemployment.

Mr. Speaker, the people believed that. The Liberal government said: "Give us a strong majority, in order that we may act." This government has no valid reason to remain idle. However, 42 per cent of the unemployed in Quebec are less than 25 years of age. There is the result.

Young people had been told: Go back to school, be brave; we shall build schools for you and provide you with teachers, in short, nothing will be missing. Go back to school so that we shall have peace while you are there. So, the young people went and studied, but once the course was over, they could not find a job. This problem is so serious, especially in Quebec, that a so-called competent manager succeeded in getting elected, thanks to a simple slogan: "100,000 jobs". Yet, the individual is not thinking of "100,000 jobs", he would be satisfied with only one.

All that the present government has been able to do is to get into trouble.

What do old party governments do? Instead of trying to get at the root of the evil, they take one particular