

The Budget—Mr. Orlikow

brackets and that the needy will receive a few dry crusts of bread.

Particularly ignored in the Budget are Canada's young people. Over 500,000 young people, almost 20 per cent of all young Canadians, are unemployed at the present time. While the Minister of Finance has been able to give large tax breaks and concessions to the wealthy and to corporations, he was only able to find \$150 million in new money for job creation for Canada's youth. That will provide jobs for less than 1.5 per cent of the more than 500,000 unemployed young people.

If one wants to see how the federal Government really looks at the problems of young people, one just has to look at some of its major decisions about education and improving the skills of young people. The remedial literacy programs operated through the Department of Employment and Immigration have been reduced over the years so that many young Canadians lack basic educational skills. It has been estimated that almost 30 per cent of Canadians are functionally illiterate. That is a disgrace. Funding for the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council has been cut back this year. This will have a devastating effect upon post-graduate students and upon the ability of Canadian universities and colleges to meet their faculty needs in the 1990s. Bill C-12 was passed recently in the House over the objections of the provinces and Opposition Parties. It limited the increase by the federal Government for post-secondary education for the coming year to 5 per cent, which is much less than needed. The \$150 million allocated for job creation for unemployed youth will give temporary jobs to only 1.5 per cent of those unemployed.

The Budget papers of the Minister indicate that he foresees double-digit inflation for the next number of years. In other words, he sees very little decrease in the next four years or five years. We are in danger of losing a whole generation of our youth. Not since the hungry 1930s have the prospects for our young been so dismal. I graduated from high school in the 1930s. Many of the young people who started school with me did not graduate. However, the majority of those who graduated in my year were unable to find jobs. When the former Leader of our Party, Mr. Douglas, who was then a Member of Parliament, suggested a fund to put people to work, he was told that the money could not be found. In 1939 war broke out and suddenly there was no problem about money. All the money needed was suddenly found and every Canadian had a job if he was not in the armed forces.

We believe, as do most Canadians, that for the foreseeable future most jobs will be provided by the private sector. We live and will continue to live, as do nearly all people in the western industrialized world, in a mixed economy in which some people provide services, be they employed by a federal, provincial or municipal government or some agency such as a hospital funded by public funds. However, most people work in the private sector. That will continue as far ahead as anyone can foresee.

Given the world-wide recession we are facing at the present time and with which we have been living for the last few years, it is obvious the private sector cannot provide all the required

jobs. As the economy is improving, most companies will be able to manage with less workers than they had before or, at most, will rehire some of their senior employees. That forebodes very serious problems for young people who are now unemployed. If the private sector cannot provide the jobs for those who want jobs, we believe the Government must be able to provide them for every Canadian who wants one. The Government should accept that responsibility, a responsibility which the Hon. Member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce-Lachine East (Mr. Allmand) accepted in principle.

Particularly hard hit at the present time are young people living in the core area of our cities—young native people and new immigrant children. Their education has been proven to be deficient. The only jobs they may be able to obtain if the economy picks up are low-paying, unskilled, boring, dead-end jobs, most at minimum wage or slightly more.

The federal Government played a major role in permitting immigrants to enter Canada. It permitted or encouraged native Canadians who for generations had lived on reserves to move into our cities. Cities such as Winnipeg, Regina, Edmonton and Vancouver now have large native populations. Among that group the unemployment rate is 20 per cent, 30 per cent and 50 per cent, not 10 per cent or 11 per cent. On the reserves the unemployment rate is 80 per cent or 90 per cent. Having been responsible for encouraging people to emigrate to Canada, the federal Government cannot ignore those people and say that they are the responsibility of a province or a city. It has the duty to play a major role in helping these people adjust or integrate into urban life which until now it has refused to do.

We do not need the plethora of individual job-creation programs, many of which are designed for political purposes, as we heard so graphically and clearly during Question Period today. Many of them are changed every year, so people do not know what kinds of job programs are available.

We need also a national youth policy. The year 1985 has been designated as the International Year of Youth. We should use that occasion to focus on the contribution that our young people can make to Canadian society. The federal Government can play an important role in this area.

• (1710)

The most notable changes in Canada in education in recent years have been the increase in the number of young people getting instruction in one of the official languages, French in English-speaking Canada and English in French-speaking Canada, and in vocational education. Both of those programs, which are the most significant changes which have taken place in the educational system in Canada in the last 25 years, came into effect as a result of the initiative of the federal Government, the federal Government putting money into those programs. If the federal Government could do that, it could initiate a national youth policy which would put the young people of Canada back to work.

We have had examples of programs which have worked, some better than others. How can we learn what will work