

Employment Programs

merce. First, if we are going to create a condition of confidence in our business community we should set up an industrial development co-ordination and consultation branch. The reason for this is that the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce has many programs to help finance and assist business, but largely they are not well known or understood and many of our small businesses which can do something positive frankly do not have the expertise, the legal help or other assistance required to know even where to go. I believe that we should set up one central body to whom all businesses could go to obtain aid from the government to help them develop their industry domestically and externally. If we set up such a co-ordinating body I think it would serve a very useful purpose and at the same time show we wish to help them.

I also want to suggest that as an ad hoc, short-run and, I believe, effective measure we should set up an Employment Stimulation Fund. I am not an economist but I would propose that it be financed by \$200 million cash, with about \$800 million in guaranteed loan capital. The object would be to give grants and/or loans directly to the business community in direct relationship to the number of useful jobs they can create.

Mr. Gilbert: This sounds like welfare.

Mr. Cafik: I believe that if we were to encourage small businesses in this manner to hire 10 here and 20 in another place, and this were repeated by thousands of businesses across Canada, very rapidly many of the 650,000 people who are unemployed in this country would be put to work. If implemented this would have an immediate effect. In my view, the kind of action I have suggested would help create a state of confidence and security in the people of this country and a realization that we are doing everything in our power to make this country move ahead. But even more important we will assure ourselves that the kind of free system which we all cherish will survive to serve future generations. I am concerned that if we cannot solve this central problem of unemployment, then this country and our institutions are in for a bad time indeed.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, I listened with interest to the previous speaker. I will not deal with economic problems except to say that about a year and a half ago steps were taken by the government to dampen the inflationary process. The increased taxes that slowed down the economy had a tremendous effect in designated areas, destroying the impact of industrial incentives. The unpleasant truth is that the economy is at a standstill. An increase of 200,000 in the number of unemployed in 1970 cost the economy of the country \$2 billion. Profits are down; and, Mr. Speaker, if taxes are not reduced and employment does not increase over the next three months, the outlook is grim indeed.

• (9:10 p.m.)

Now I wish to deal with a special problem, the employment of university students. Three years ago the univer-

[Mr. Cafik.]

sities of this country were running at a cost of over \$600 million and there were over 300,000 full-time, winter university students. These figures do not take into account the investment in buildings and equipment which runs into billions of dollars. Many university buildings are used only eight months of the year, which is two-thirds of the time. They then stand idle for the remaining one-third of the year, wasting the dollars that are invested in them.

The total cost of education today in Canada runs around 10 per cent of the gross national product. Can we afford the non-utilization of these buildings for one-third of the year? Would it not be much better to pick out the professions where there is a scarcity of trained men and keep the students at school, instead of letting the buildings and equipment stand idle while the students walk the roads?

I will choose the profession about which I probably know the most, the medical profession. There are just over 20,000 doctors in Canada and just over 10,000 of them are general practitioners. Figure it any way you like, we have the worst ratio of any of the countries of the world with our standard of living. The Russians have one doctor to every 500 people, yet Russia is supposed to be backward. Even the United States, our neighbour to the south, has a much better record.

Over and over again the scarcity of doctors and the difficulty people have, if they move from one place to another, to get a doctor to look after them has been brought to the attention of the government. Their only hope is the emergency ward of the hospitals which, generally speaking, are grossly overworked. In the hospitals which have no interns, the doctors must supply someone from the practising doctors. In one small hospital alone they had over 1,800 emergency cases in a relatively slow month. I have heard estimates of how short we are in this field—probably 15 per cent to 20 per cent in the general practice field. Most of the hospitals have no interns yet, Mr. Speaker, 40 years ago hospitals of similar size had two to four interns. Is this progress?

What is happening now is that doctors in many hospitals are overloaded with histories, forms and bureaucratic control. Much of the work could be done by house doctors and interns and so relieve the workload of the doctors. Partially trained paramedical personnel is not the answer. The Feldsher system in Russia, after many years is gradually being phased out because of too many wrong diagnoses and too many referrals. The same thing would happen in this country. The doctor's workload could be cut probably by 20 per cent if red tape, forms and bureaucracy in hospitals did not take up so much of his time. There should be interns in hospitals where they have sufficient patients. But to get the interns they must have doctors, and to get the doctors there there must be medical students and medical schools.

I have asked the federal government to co-operate with the universities, to provide the funds to finance the four months that the medical schools stand idle. In this way a doctor could have the same training in four years that now requires six years. But the government did not move. It turned a deaf ear to the people who cannot get