

*Employment of Graduate Students*

As far as the graduates with an M.A. are concerned, their share of the labour market shows a 20 per cent drop this year.

Finally, graduates with a Ph.D. who are entering the labour market have seen their chances decrease by 25 per cent during the last 12 months.

It seems that in spite of the billions of dollars invested in education during the last decades, the improvements we were expecting are not for the near future.

In this day and age, economic dictatorship of a few men protected by the government in power has imposed the prevalence of money over all values and man is nothing but a commodity subject to the law of supply and demand.

As for those who are hungry and those who are without work, society does not even offer them the surplus milk and wheat which it allows to be produced.

Since millions of people, too many Canadians live in poverty in our affluent society, young people are asking questions. They are skeptical of the words, the promises and the renewal programs which never materialize.

They mistrust politicians who do not govern for the people. They say that the government is not that of the people, and I know that they are right.

They do not fancy at all the role of slaves, which has been that of their parents in the present system, and they wonder what we have to offer them.

I believe that it is urgent to give an answer, because thousands of young people will not accept to join the ranks of people on welfare or of the unemployed.

In today's changing conditions, the government should take steps to make students and young unemployed party to the development of Canada. It is necessary to be able to discover the citizen and to give him social tasks the execution of which becomes a contribution to the common welfare.

The imagination and enthusiasm of young people can create and produce worthwhile initiatives. That responsibility which would be given to them would constitute an outstanding preparation for life.

If we wish to stop from growing the feeling of disgust that this generation has in view of the poor results of this administration, it is more than time in my opinion to take the necessary action in order to create the just society so often talked about.

One wonders whether the just society has been proposed simply for fun.

Frankly, we wonder whether the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) knew what he was saying when he promised the establishment of a just society. Did he really know what he was committing himself to or was it merely an election promise?

We are led to think so by the increase in unemployment. This situation is extremely costly because the losses in salaries are considerable.

[Mr. Godin.]

• (8:30 p.m.)

The goods which are not produced or the services which are not rendered make our society all the more poorer. The worker must then pay higher taxes to offset smaller tax returns and quite rapidly additional social allowances are required to compensate for the salary losses.

Keeping able-bodied people idle is demoralizing and downgrading for them. Keeping 500,000 people unemployed in Canada weakens community life, increases consumer prices and, for people still working, adds to the tax burden since it does cost something to provide the unemployed with even bare essentials.

The unemployed must make do with a bare minimum while the working man must tighten his belt because part of his pay is taken away to give a minimum to the unemployed.

Both are penalized since the working man who has just enough for himself is obliged to share his pay with his unemployed fellow citizen who has nothing at all.

But, most ridiculous of all, some people in their sixties, tired and spent, are still working and paying out to help provide for their neighbours 18 to 25 years of age who are in perfect health and awaiting their turn to be hired.

Not only is there nothing to be offered the young but they are in the way.

When those young people have less than Grade 10, their applications are simply thrown into the wastepaper basket. If they do have a diploma, their names are put on the lists of industry, business or those of the civil service, federal as well as provincial, at the Canada Manpower Centres.

Mr. Speaker, we won the war thanks to fellows who had only three or four years of schooling. To fight against the bad Germans, guys who could neither read nor write were even enlisted.

Today, in times of peace, those who wish to live normally have to wait. Even when he is registered as unemployed, he must prove he has experience, and as the youth is just coming out of school, it is pretty hard for him to prove that.

For instance, as the Public Service Commission wanted them to while the time away, they were asked to sit for examinations. I have here a letter which was written this summer to a voter in the Quebec area. A young man had applied for a radio operator job on April 17, 1970. To keep him busy, the Public Service Commission each month asked him to sit for an examination. At the end of the summer, on September 11 to be precise he was written the following letter:

Dear Sir:

This letter refers to your application for employment as a radio operator and to our acknowledgment of July 16, 1970.

In connection with this competition, we intended to invite you to sit for a written examination at the end of the month of August, but the examination had to be cancelled because of the postal strike. In the meantime, the Department of Transport has informed us that all places available for the next course are already filled.