

*Employment of Graduate Students*

giving them the necessary tools to develop Canada, so that we may take advantage of the vast resources of such a wealthy country and help the entire world to enjoy a better standard of living. Indeed, if we succeed in controlling poverty, we would thus have rendered a very great service to the entire world.

• (5:10 p.m.)

[English]

**Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate):** Mr. Speaker, I had hoped that the Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. Lang) would remain in the House for the entirety of this debate to hear the constructive statements of members of the opposition who, in the opinions of most Canadians, are still an integral part of the democratic process in this country.

The statement the minister has just made will come as a grave disappointment to tens of thousands of young people across this nation. We did not come to this chamber expecting the hon. gentleman to acknowledge that government economic policy was wrong, or that we were facing chronic unemployment among our young people. That would not be the place of a government spokesman. Neither would it be the place of the opposition to laud the government for achievement on all fronts. But at least we did expect the minister to present us with a positive statement and outline a policy which, while recognizing the difficulties confronting the government, was designed to get the economy out of its slump to the advantage of all the unemployed and, in particular, of the young people of this nation.

The minister spoke as a person who, to use a phrase suggested by one of my hon. friends, must have fallen in love with himself at a very early age. This, at least, was his attitude—the impression which hon. members gained. I was bitterly disappointed. I should like to see members of this House copy the minister's statement and have tens of thousands of copies printed and distributed so that the young people could be aware of the contemptuous attitude taken toward their problem, and the arrogance with which they were treated. I do not know where this arrogance came from, but I imagine a number of hon. members can guess. But this was the response to a serious discussion by the opposition of the critical unemployment issue. I shall get around to dealing in more detail with the minister's statement later. His pious pomposities will not go unchallenged by members of the opposition or, I hope, by some supporters of his own party. I did not expect him to remain in the House to listen to remarks from this side of the chamber, because I guess he does not want to hear the truth told in any unsophisticated way.

We have heard the motion proposed by an hon. member of the Creditiste party, the amendment put forward by the NDP, and the amendment offered by the hon. member for Vegreville (Mr. Mazankowski). My hon. friend from Vegreville quoted a statistic which is indeed alarming, namely, that in November, 1970, the number of unemployed people under the age of 25 has increased by 43 per cent. A large proportion of these will be young family people, most of them, I imagine, between the ages

of 20 and 25, who are raising families, eager to get homes and, in many cases, faced with financial liabilities as they seek to pay off debts and acquire at least a minimum of personal belongings. Some of them have perhaps not reached the stage of bearing matrimonial responsibilities; they are seeking to further their education or to make their way in the labour market. Some of them are well educated in the professional sense; others have only the basic requirements of an education. These are the Canadians we are talking about when we say there has been a 43 per cent increase among those unemployed in the age bracket below 25 during the month of November as compared with November, 1969. We are not talking about an adjusted rate; we are not thinking in terms of a sophisticated statistic concocted by the Bureau of Statistics for use by statisticians. I do not think these people are much concerned about whether they are part of an adjusted unemployment rate or not. The fact is, they are unemployed.

I do not believe we can overstate the seriousness of this problem. To hon. members who have taken part in the debate this afternoon, I want to say that we might not agree with the latter part of the motion put forward on behalf of the Creditistes. Our own contribution has been the amendment proposed by my hon. friend from Vegreville—a substantial amendment which satisfies the party to which I belong. It is consistent with the position we have always taken, I am told. In this respect I believe the Minister of Manpower and Immigration must have a short memory, because apparently he does not recall the situation which arose in 1962, I believe, when the party to which he belongs, out of expediency, decided to support the policy advanced by the Creditistes in their motion. I feel sure he would wish to correct the record when he realizes that his party did move in that direction.

The implications of the present unemployment situation were clearly set out by my hon. friend. The first implication is that far too many young families today find themselves without money, and, for the most part, not provided for adequately by welfare and social assistance programs. Even when they are eligible, this short-term assistance is inadequate. The second consequence is that the total educational position of manpower in Canada this winter will take a beating. We cannot continue to expand our total human resource potential—I think that is the phrase educators use today; I do not know what the minister would call it—during a period when so many of our young people are unemployed; when they are, without choice and without alternatives, a drag on the economy. The total impact of this on Canadian society will be felt in years to come. Not only are these young people unable to support themselves, but in many cases they are a drag on their families. The adult parents of these young people have to dig down into their pockets to assist them to keep going during the winter. Again, in many of the families with which I am familiar, the patriarch of the family, the father, is unemployed as well. I have in mind those who, through no fault of their own, failed to acquire a satisfactory education. Fathers are caught up in exactly the same circum-

[Mr. Matte.]