

which I am sure would be supported by the public generally, that all the money granted for OYP must be accounted for and audited as all public money should be. Even if that cannot be done for all the programs, certainly spot checks should be made so that the OYP people would know they were being held accountable for the money given to them under the program.

Let us now take a look at the Manpower offices and see what they might do to assist the young people in finding employment. I, for one, give the Manpower offices full marks for what they do in the summertime to assist young people to obtain employment. However, this work should be continued throughout the year, even though primarily it is just a summer program. Speaking of the Manpower offices and of the regulations under which they work, I give those officials full marks for removing the three year attachment to the labour force clause which meant that training allowances could be granted and the period shortened. This is a good thing.

Since we are speaking primarily about youth and their problems today, I would just like to repeat that the Department of Manpower and Immigration is focused mainly on summer employment for post-secondary students and the needs of young job seekers 16 and 17 years old appear to be neglected. Young workers need special attention and counselling to assist them in finding suitable employment. It is doubtful if this can be accomplished in the broad approach taken by the Canada Manpower Centres.

• (1710)

The Canadian Council on Social Development conducted a study on this matter, and I wish to quote from its report at page 253 as follows:

Only 10 per cent of the respondents interviewed for this study had good things to say about their contacts with Canada Manpower Centres. Perhaps they expected too much, perhaps they deserved better. Some displayed a mixed reaction. The majority were critical of the treatment and help received. Sixty per cent resented or were critical of the attitudes projected by Manpower counsellors.

There is much more at stake than Manpower's search for job orders when the employment needs of new, young workers are under consideration. A more personal, sympathetic and counselling intensive approach is required if widespread discontent and despair among youth is to be avoided.

As a short-term measure, the Department of Manpower and Immigration should develop a network of youth manpower centres, separate and distinct from, but closely co-ordinated with existing Canada Manpower Centres. These should be staffed by carefully selected, specially trained personnel with an understanding of and respect for the needs and values of young people. The youth centres should be oriented to youth and should conduct continuing aggressive outreach programs with both youth and employers.

I think this would be a step in the right direction. The counselling in the Manpower offices leaves much to be desired. Many people are misdirected to the upgrading courses which Manpower conducts. People are put into the wrong courses. Sometimes after a person has taken a course there is no job available for him. I wish to quote one example that is given in the study to which I have already referred. It is typical and bears out many of the things people have told me. The young fellow involved is called John. Here is his story:

Unemployment among Youth

John, aged 20, was raised on a farm and completed Grade 12. He came to the city two years ago to take a commercial art course at the community college. He received no counselling on graduation from high school or on admission to the community college. John completed his art course but then found that there was no demand for his services. To his chagrin he learned that only a very small proportion of any commercial art class ever found employment in that field. John has registered at Canada Manpower for any kind of job but has failed to obtain a position as yet. He shares accommodation with friends in a commune and feels their friendship and support keeps him going. He doesn't like to be dependent on those who are working and so applied for social assistance. His parents are still on the farm and he feels they would welcome his return as they were disappointed that he did not want to make farming his way of life. But it appears to him that they have always just barely "got by" and he can't see any future there. When interviewed he was discouraged and depressed.

Why would he not be discouraged and depressed? There are many others like him. Mr. Speaker, I see my time is up. I would have liked to develop my argument, but I am grateful to have had this opportunity, short as it was, to participate in this debate.

Mr. William Knight (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I rise to take part in this debate because of the immense importance of the motion introduced by the hon. member for Yorkton-Melville (Mr. Nystrom). I was somewhat intrigued by the remarks of the hon. member for Davenport (Mr. Caccia) who made some ridiculous statements concerning the fact that the motion was somewhat abrasive. I want to point out to the hon. member that if we had introduced a motion that could have been agreed to by all hon. members, a wishy-washy kind of motion, we would have been attacked for that very reason.

The hon. member referred to the Opportunities for Youth program. He could not understand why we were offering criticisms of it and yet suggesting that it be expanded. May I refer the hon. member to a report of the National Council of Welfare on guaranteed incomes and guaranteed jobs, at page 9, where it states:

The hopeful developments of the past year, as embodied in the Opportunities for Youth and Local Initiatives Programs, is that this re-definition can be seen to have begun. It has begun, however, through programs designed only as ad hoc and short-term responses. Instead of building new permanent concepts of work in terms of community service, these programs have created only insecure, short-term, filler jobs. Thus, someone may for years have carried out various community service activities on an unremunerated volunteer basis. In June of 1971 under the Opportunities for Youth program that activity suddenly became a "job" and the person doing it received pay for this employment—till September when it suddenly ceased to be employment and again became unpaid volunteer activity—until December when the Local Initiatives Program again declared it a "job" and provided remuneration—until May when this program substantially expired and it again became unpaid non-employment. The May 31 expiry of the main part of the Local Initiatives program not only saw more than 70,000 Canadian workers "laid off," with all the attendant affects upon them and their families, but an end to thousands of projects providing valuable community services. That many projects were continued beyond this date is commendable, but they survive on the same insecure basis of facing a guillotine which has merely been postponed till September.

That is why the Opportunities for Youth and Local Initiatives programs are very much open to debate in this House. My colleagues have done an excellent job in spelling out the difficulties therein. I would like to deal with the problems facing youth in our rural society. Often, we fail to develop opportunities for young people who do not