

minister whom I knew. She was a very nice young lady and led one of the university groups in this country. She wanted to get some money to take a number of students to Mexico. For some reason they had not been taken into CUSO. They wanted to go on a project in Mexico and provide sewage and water services for an Indian village. How they heard about the Indian village, I do not know. How they thought they knew anything about sewage and plumbing, I also do not know; but they had an idea about it. They asked for help and I was influential in getting that help. It was not from the government. The government would have said, "We belong to the international organization that supports CUSO: If we were to support this other organization the Mexican government would say we were interfering in their affairs. They did not ask us, and we cannot help."

Mr. Pepin: Maybe somebody asked them, "Do you know anything about sewage?"

Mr. Peters: Maybe. In any event, the Canadian government did not help them. These young people displayed initiative and I was influential in helping them to obtain assistance from the Colonial Coach Company which supplied a bus and took them to Mexico. Before going they went around Ottawa and scrounged plastic pipes, pumps and what have you from merchants. They went down. When they came back they looked as if they had been to hell and back. Most of them had a tropical disease. Most of them went down there and suffered severely. The young lady I was interested in and who made the original request came back and spent several months in hospital. She had picked up all sorts of germs while working on the project. The point is that these young kids were willing to live in huts and in primitive conditions among the Indians of Mexico. If they could do that, surely they could help in our municipalities. Surely our municipalities make use of them. In that way our kids could clean up our environment.

It may be sad that some airports were built under make-work programs, but they are still there. We built them by paying a wage of ten cents a day, a package of tobacco a week and a pair of jeans and sometimes a shirt every two months. It is true that these were make-work programs. Some might say they were degrading. But at least the people accomplished something. Look at what was accomplished with the Tennessee Valley Authority. Look at the dam that was built. Sure the people were living on welfare; sure, it was a make-work program—but the people were able to do something and so maintain their dignity. Many young people today have not had the opportunity of working. Maybe they don't want to work. I suggest that at least we should give them the opportunity to do something worth while. The good they will be doing will benefit them in the future and we too will benefit.

The minister should become familiar with such programs. Sure, we can send kids down to Manpower centres. That is where you get the big runaround, although they are supposed to handle your problem. A young fellow went to a Manpower centre in my area and they

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said to him, "Come back next week." He said, "I can't; I live in Kirkland Lake." They said, "Oh, you are from out of town. You can go to the data centre and get two weeks' work." This year I managed to get four job opportunities for him and he is having a hard time deciding which one to take.

Mr. Stanbury: Things must be looking up.

Mr. Peters: The Manpower offices are not the place to send these people. They cure nothing. I sometimes wonder how in the world they help young people at all. In the final analysis, many of our young people will have to create their own jobs and decide to solve their own problems. All I am asking is this: If the young people get together with the municipalities and decide on undertaking some pollution control, will the government provide the necessary money to the municipalities? We could put all the students in the country to work along the Rideau River. If we do not do something soon and spend some money, we shall be able to scoop it out by hand. If it were cleaned up the Rideau could be a waterway that would be a credit to Canada. Basically, it would take a small amount of money. Employing young people in that way is better than seeing them travel across the country.

Does it not strike you as disgraceful that 3,000 young people will agree to make milk stools in Toronto that nobody will buy? True, they are being given the job—and they are taking dope as well. Nevertheless, youngsters who take dope do not begin as addicts. They have been making milk stools which will not be sold to anybody. These young people are not stupid; they are not from mental hospitals; they are not incapable. Many of them have come from universities—and they are to make milk stools for cows that are not milked by hand. Isn't that a sad commentary on what we as adults have tried to do for our young people? Is this considered a worthy project for young people to undertake?

Mr. Stanfield: It reflects the government's interest in young people.

Mr. Peters: I shall read the minister's speech. I am awaiting the next edition of his remarks, because without question there will be another edition. After that I shall speak and we shall tell the kids what their responsibilities are. I shall probably be able to carry on with the next chapter of my dissertation after that edition.

About a week ago the CBC presented a television program that was criticized by many people in my area. The program pointed out that one-fifth of Canada's people are being deprived of the necessities of life; they face a situation in which there is no hope, no future and no solution. The only solution for these people is welfare. The program was concerned with Mr. Rohmer's concept of the mid-Canada line. The hon. member for Timmins (Mr. Roy) and others can scream bloody murder and claim that the CBC program was a misrepresentation.

I am not arguing that CBC should not have presented that program. I am only complaining that the corporation did not suggest a future for these people. In its presentation it did not have the courage to suggest what the