

Employment of Graduate Students

I think that there is no over-all solution to our economic and social problems. However, let us not put all our eggs in the same basket because when we drop it, we shall have quite an omelet. This is what is taking place today.

On Friday, December 11, 1970, on the front page of the newspaper *Le Nouvelliste*, of Trois-Rivières, there was the following heading: "476,000 unemployed in Canada and Quebec holds the record for unemployment in this country". Let me quote part of this article quite descriptive of our situation:

The number of unemployed in Canada has increased by 57,000 and reached 476,000 in November last, the Minister of Manpower and Immigration and the Dominion Bureau of Statistics disclosed Thursday in a joint statement.

This increase in the number of unemployed raised the gross unemployment rate to 5.7 per cent, from 5 per cent in October.

As for the labour situation, it is stated that it may vary from October to November. However, the number of employed workers stood at 7,924,000 in November, a drop of 69,000 from October.

And this is not happening only in the province of Quebec.

Mr. Speaker, the same problem is just as acute in every province. This is—and I want to say it straight out—the total failure of this government's economic policy.

That is why I move, seconded by my colleagues of the Ralliement créditiste, the following motion:

That this House condemns the government for having inspired false hopes among young people between the ages of 16 and 24 by assuring them that education pays, at a time when young people coming out of schools and universities find no outlet for their energies and no means of placing the knowledge they have acquired at the service of the people, because—

And this is where we find, Mr. Speaker, the incompetence of the old parties in economic matters.

—because the government has been unable to introduce such financial devices as the compensated discount and the national dividend so as to enable the masses to benefit from the communal resource constituted by young people who are educated and better equipped than any previous generation to produce more efficiently, more abundantly and more economically, so as to assure the greater welfare of all Canadians.

Indeed the number of unemployed has increased by 44,000 in Ontario, by 28,000 in British Columbia, by 25,000 in Quebec and by 23,000 in the Prairie provinces. It is not merely a problem concerning Quebec; it is a national problem.

The rate of unemployment has increased in Quebec from 6.8 per cent to 1.2 per cent. It cannot be said that the government of Quebec ignores that problem. Indeed this shadow government has as a matter of fact won the election by promising 100,000 jobs. Up to now this plan has been a failure. Indeed in its last annual report the Economic Council of Canada estimated that only 3,000 jobs would be created this year in Quebec, which would not be much of a success.

[Mr. Fortin.]

But today 168,000 jobs would be needed to regain control of the situation. Through its anti-inflation policy the federal government has directly contributed to the increase of unemployment all across Canada. The economic policy followed by the government under the present Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) has led to complete failure.

To show the shortcomings of this economic policy of the Liberals, one merely has to point out that while graduates were being produced, a matching number of opportunities should have been created, and this the government has failed to do.

Mr. Speaker, the specialized magazine *Supply and Demand* indicates that the number of employment opportunities for university graduates has increased by a mere 3.4 per cent since 1969 whereas the number of graduates has gone up by 10 per cent during the same period, increasing at a rate twice as fast—if not more—as the number of job openings.

And for the province of Quebec, the Minister of Labour about a month ago predicted that next year 48,000 CEGEP graduates will not be able to find jobs corresponding to their educational levels.

This situation is serious, not to say upsetting, when one considers that its victims are the same young people who were promised a happy society where they would find freedom and security since their degrees, they were told, would secure a stable job for them. But today, what do these degrees secure for them? Idleness, disappointment and despair. Why? Because the present government simply does not have a monetary policy.

And our governments are directly responsible for this situation, which they literally created.

[*English*]

The greatest myth of the post-war years, Mr. Speaker, has been that of "more jobs, and better jobs through more education." We have already examined the results with respect to the young people who innocently believed this myth. More jobs, Mr. Speaker? Better jobs? They don't have any jobs at all! But even worse for the country is the fact that governments believed the myth, and so every government from Newfoundland to British Columbia poured money into education. And Ottawa was right out there in front, paying 50 per cent of the operating costs of Canadian universities, as well as financing the Canadian student loan program.

The Economic Council of Canada tells us that education is the biggest expense of governments in this country. Already public and private financing of education runs to over \$5 billion. And what is the result? Young people coming out of universities with their degrees can't find jobs. It costs \$40,000 to educate a man to the point where he receives a Ph.D. degree, and yet Dr. Frank Kelly, Science Adviser for the Science Council of Canada, last month said that half the Ph.D. candidates getting their degrees next year will not be able to find employment.

Somewhere, Mr. Speaker, somebody has made a horrible mistake. Billions of dollars are spent on education,