

*Supply*

very difficult economic situation. That has exacerbated the situation for young Canadians in my constituency.

Just on the weekend, Friday afternoon when the House was closed, I was in my riding and met with numerous young persons regarding the lack of summer employment opportunities.

On Saturday, I went to local shopping malls in a couple of communities and, of course, I was bombarded by individuals. They were asking, on behalf of their sons and daughters, if there were any particular programs with additional funding from the Government of Canada to assist young people obtain summer employment. In many instances, this summer employment is needed to help pursue post-secondary studies and/or some form of training in the fall.

The reality is that the opportunities are non-existent. There are some communities across this country where opportunities do exist, but I suggest that in the slower economic growth areas, those opportunities for young people just do not exist.

Many of them, much perhaps to the chagrin of the Minister of State for Finance, are working very hard and diligently to try to obtain some form of employment. Whether it be six weeks on a grant or ten weeks filling in for someone, they are all attempting to obtain some form of employment in order to generate sufficient funds to pursue their education.

It does not stop there. I want to cite an example of what has happened in parts of my riding. A young lady who graduated from high school with superb marks went on to university and was successful in obtaining several scholarships. Her father and mother were not members of the bar or in the medical profession, but were average middle-class Canadians.

The policy of this administration, however, is that it taxes the scholarship.

• (1250)

For those who may be viewing this morning and this afternoon's debate, taxing the scholarship may not mean much in the whole scheme of things. However, when one has a relatively fixed income and, over and above that, has worked hard to attain a certain academic standard, it is difficult to proceed onward when you find out at the end of the day that you are going to be taxed because you

worked hard. Yes, you are a student, you have done academically well, but the government is still going to tax you. This seems not to be very progressive thinking on the part of the nation's legislators.

Again, this is another example of the administration's activity with regard to youth and youth opportunities.

It has been mentioned many times in this House that there are many barriers in this country from province to province. In many provinces if one were to pursue a post-secondary education outside one's province, one could not qualify for a bursary.

Members may say: "Well, why does that student not stay in his or her own province and obtain the same type of degree that can be offered in other parts of the country?" The fact of the matter is that in many instances part of the educational process would be to go to McGill or Laval to acquire knowledge not only for academic purposes but also for the cultural and socio-economic status of that particular region. The hon. member makes a very disparaging remark on what I believe to be a very important subject matter. The hon. member will have her opportunity to express her view and I hope she will have the courtesy to give me my opportunity to express my view.

The fact of the matter is that there are thousands and thousands of young Canadians who wish to go outside their province to pursue post-secondary education only to find that they are limited by the amount of money their province will provide in bursaries.

Those two factors, coupled with the fact that young people have no job opportunities, make their situation even more bleak. I called upon, and I call upon again, the minister responsible to provide the necessary funding to assist, in difficult times, those students seeking meaningful employment who wish to pursue post-secondary education as well as training and other forms of improving upon their job-related skills.

It is particularly difficult when talking to students graduating from Riverview High School, Glace Bay High School or Breton Education Centre to say: "Yes, continue on" when they cannot even get a summer job for 10 or 12 weeks. Surely to God there is an obligation on the part of the government of this country, in the kind of political situation we are in at the present time, to put its shoulder to the wheel and come up with creative and