

Supply

and I would know they would be coming back, but I do not send them around that circle any more because I have lost hope too. Is it not sad that as a Member of Parliament I too have lost hope because I cannot find jobs for them? It used to be that when unemployment offices could not or would not help, I would, but I cannot do that any more. Chamber of Commerce businessmen tell me they have no hope and that they are not creating jobs. This lack of spirit is in young people, employers and others. It is as if nothing can be done and there is no hope.

This government is doing something. It is causing the situation in which there are no jobs, but that does not mean there are not some answers. Perhaps the government should allow young people to take their unemployment insurance cheques to businessmen or prospective employers. Those employers could match those cheques or add 10 per cent or 20 per cent to them and give young people jobs so that they could be productive. This would make for happier, better and more productive young people.

Young people would not have to take their cheques very far. For example, they could take them to municipal offices. The municipalities I represent, Surrey and Langley, had summer student employment programs. I said "had", in past tense. They would be happy to take unemployment insurance cheques and turn them into jobs. They could provide jobs for probably 25 per cent of the cost and would be happy to do so. If they could not do it at 100 per cent, they might at 25 per cent. I called a municipal engineering department, and this is the response I received:

The Engineering Department has come to rely upon the Summer Student Employment Program to provide temporary extra staff during the peak summer construction period. These students have traditionally provided the flexibility to:

1. Temporarily replace permanent staff who should have at least some part of their vacation in summer; and
2. Get done a multitude of those tasks which are pedantic and time consuming and, although important and necessary, never seem to get done because of more urgent demands on the regular staff.

And regular staffs are being cut back and cut back. Are there really meaningful jobs? I ask this of the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Axworthy). The answer is, yes. I have the answer in my hand. There is a municipality which will create all kinds of jobs if it is given unemployment insurance cheques. That is all the minister has to do.

What can young people do? They can do labour work to replace outside workers doing construction and maintenance. Experience is not even required. They can gather data for traffic counts, public works inventories, historical research into files and so forth. They can act as secretarial and clerical replacements. They can update base maps for legal purposes, utilities and land development. They can order information and prepare computer input. They could learn something and begin to grow a little bit. They could use the human potential they have and get some further training, which would make them even more useful to our society. These are real jobs. This is in the municipality of Surrey, Mr. Minister. Here they are. Can we do that? Can we give them our UIC cheques? I wonder.

• (2140)

I do not want to stop there. There are other possibilities. Let us look at the minister's cabinet colleagues here. Let us look to the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Lamontagne). Do you know that the Minister of National Defence told me in committee the other night that the Armed Forces do not want to take into their ranks every young person who comes to them and says, "I would like to join the reserves for the summer. I would like to gain that experience and opportunity in the Armed Forces. I would like to learn a little bit of patriotism and how to protect myself and my country. I would like to become the man that the armed services promise us we can become". Sometimes the armed services say, "We do not want them. We do not want those who do not have skills, who are not able." I say to the Minister of Employment and Immigration that there are all kinds of young people who have lots of skills, lots of will and still have some hope. The Minister of National Defence said to me that out of every three who ask to go, the department takes only one because of limitations. This applies to those who want only summer training.

Mr. Riis: Would they take Trudeau?

Mr. Wenman: I do not know. The Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) was out there with his children. I thought that they would maybe enrol in Sea Cadets or the Reserves, but I guess there is no place for them.

Why does the Minister of Employment and Immigration not go and talk to the Minister of National Defence and take at least 25,000 of these young people and give them that opportunity? What is the alternative for them? The alternative is wandering in the streets despondently, with no hope and no opportunity to go back to school next year.

Mr. Riis: They do not like young people.

Mr. Wenman: They have something against young people, it seems. They must. It is one thing to punish the wage-earner again and again. They are so punished and pushed down that they are in a desperate state. But if the government believes in our future and wants to build up these young people, why can it not take 25,000 or more into the Reserves? Tell me why? When I asked that in the committee, you should have seen the faces of the generals of the Armed Forces of Canada light up. They have been talking about cutbacks for so long that they cannot even imagine expansion. Perhaps we should make it an emergency program. We have 18.7 per cent of the people in that age bracket in Vancouver who might welcome this kind of program. Let us give them an opportunity? Why not? That is a good idea. You know it is. We could take their unemployment insurance cheques and give them to the Armed Forces and say, "Here. Create a job. It will cost hardly anything. Build the country, build the nation, build up our young people". That is the kind of thing we want to say.

I spoke with the recreation departments in several lower mainland municipalities. I phoned them and said, "What about your recreation department?" They said, "Well, we have almost no budgets this year. Recreation got the biggest chop of