

*Alleged Failure to Reduce Unemployment*

year the government was the principal user of Canadian graduates, hiring some 650. What will the number be this year? The forecast is that only 250 students will be hired all over Canada. Why is there this reduction at the very time we should be going all out to find jobs for as many Canadian students as possible? I hope we shall not be told that there is no money available for this purpose. If the government had not been so careless with some of the money it has dissipated, money would have been available to provide these jobs.

Consider one or two examples: First, the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, estimated to cost \$10 million but now to cost \$50 million, \$40 million more than had been estimated. If we gave students jobs, say at \$1,000 for this season, which would be like pennies from Heaven for them, \$40 million would create 40,000 student jobs. Just think of it! What about the cost of operating the Prime Minister's office which has increased by some \$200,000—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I must interrupt the hon. member because his time has expired, unless he has leave to continue beyond his allotted time. Is that agreeable?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Hales:** Thank you. This subject is dear to my heart and I should like to expound on it further for a minute or so. I was about to say that had the increase in the cost of running the Prime Minister's office been applied to providing jobs for students it would have given employment to 200 students at \$1,000 each.

Industrial employers also are not hiring as many students as formerly. The reason is partly to be found in changes in techniques, in products manufactured and in the structure of many industries, particularly those concerned with service. But these are changes of which the authorities have been aware for some time. The Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. MacEachen) and the Minister of Labour (Mr. Mackasey) have known about them for a long while and should have been taking steps to solve the difficulties which are now confronting us.

Our young people are faced this year with a situation in which fewer firms are hiring fewer people. It is as simple as that. The government has failed lamentably to meet the challenge presented by our eager young people. It has filled the air with inconsequential

[Mr. Hales.]

issues, with dialogues and promises. Its members have had new offices built for them, have buttressed themselves with large staffs made up of defeated candidates and have given handsome salary boosts to their key officials. And this at a time when young people will be looking for jobs this summer, positions which they are entitled to find.

• (3:50 p.m.)

In the meantime we have watched our fishing industry sink into ruin. The once great flow of Canadian export wheat has slowed to a trickle, and struggling family farms and businesses are now threatened with extinction by taxation. The tabling today of the proposed changes in the Estate Tax Act may help the situation, but this tabling has been brought about by the pressure applied by the opposition, the press and the public generally. Incidentally, I am pleased to see that the Minister of Finance is present in the chamber.

Although there are practical difficulties, if the right thinking is applied I am sure they will be overcome. However, many of our young people have been promised so much by Liberal governments but have received so little. For example, about six years ago the then Prime Minister, the right hon. Mr. Pearson, stated that all students in Canada would be given an opportunity to benefit from 10,000 scholarships of \$1,000 apiece. This promise was made in each subsequent election campaign. Surely some of that money can be used in overcoming the problem of summer unemployment.

In conclusion, I urge the house to start thinking about people as human beings for once and to stop trying to shuffle them around and regiment them as though they were only figures in a ledger. I suggest a good place to start would be with our young people. A practical and effective program for the young Canadian job seeker would be the best way of starting. I will have no hesitation in supporting the motion of non-confidence which is before the house at the present time.

**Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview):** Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to participate in the debate on the motion and the amendment thereto because it gives me an opportunity to discuss in depth the housing policies that this government has failed to present, as well as those policies that are conducive to a climate of full employment and economic growth.