

Employment of Graduate Students

people, to young Canadians who made sacrifices to get educated. But reality is quite different.

On December 10, 1970, figures were published by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics on the unemployment situation in Canada during the month of November, on the current number of unemployed workers and in particular on the number of younger workers of the 18-24 age group at present unemployed. According to those figures, the unemployment rate at the end of November had jumped to 5.7 per cent from its 5 per cent position at the end of October. The total number of unemployed in Canada had increased by 57,000 in November. This increase is especially noticeable in the 18-24 age group, taking into account the fact that by the end of November 1970, there were 66,000 more young workers unemployed in Canada as compared with November 1969.

I have in hand a more comprehensive study of the unemployment situation of our younger workers as published in the DBS monthly bulletin. Let me quote the statistics for the third quarter of 1970, compared with the corresponding quarter of 1969:

UNEMPLOYMENT BY AGE GROUPS

	1970	1969	Rate	
14-19	131,000	93,000	5.3	3.8
20-24	99,000	61,000	12.5	9.2

So these are significant increases if we compare the two corresponding quarters of 1969 and 1970. And if we go further in this study, we see that unemployment is higher among young people from 14 to 24 years of age than for all other groups of workers.

Here are other statistics showing that this problem is not restricted to the third quarters of the years 1969 and 1970. Here are the figures for one particular week, that of June 22, for the years 1968, 1969 and 1970, among young people aged 14 to 19:

Number of Unemployed Ages 14 to 19	Rate of Unemployment	
June 22, 1968	153,000	15.6%
June 22, 1969	144,000	14.6%
June 20, 1970	180,000	17.7%

Mr. Speaker, whether educated or not, our youth is doomed to unemployment. Such are the conclusions from the statistics I have just cited and which were mentioned in the specialized magazine *Supply and Demand*, and I quote:

Short-term forecasts are most pessimistic. Even though federal authorities refuse to make any comment on the situation, experts assert that the labour market for new graduates will be practically non-existent in the spring.

Here is another excerpt from a recent issue of the same magazine:

—that the number of openings for young graduates has increased by only 3.4 per cent since 1969 while the number of graduates has increased by 10 per cent during the same period. Thus the gap is widening and experts do not forecast any improvement in the foreseeable future.

In Quebec, the situation is hardly any better than in Canada as a whole. In this regard, the Economic Council of Canada

[Mr. Rodrigue.]

thinks that la Belle Province will have created only 3,000 new jobs in 1970 while universities and junior colleges will inundate the labour market with over 16,000 graduates in 1971, up 22 per cent from last year—

According to the chairman of the Economic Council of Canada, a short term solution would be to increase by 5 per cent the rate of economic growth in Canada.

It seems that it is in the field of pure sciences that the most serious problems exist. This year, the demand for scientists in every branch decreased by 22 per cent. Interest in scientific research must be encouraged without delay in the private sector if the situation is to improve.

In the field of arts, we also note a decline that varies between 15 and 30 per cent. The market for holders of master's degrees has also gone down by about 20 per cent. Finally, students entering the labour market with doctor's degrees have seen their job opportunities drop by 25 per cent in the last twelve months.

Some experts even say that the university students who are pursuing advanced studies in literature, social sciences and psychology made hopeless options, having regard to future needs.

Engineering students are those who are the least affected by the lack of skilled jobs, although there are also disparities in that area. Job opportunities in engineering have increased by 12 per cent in 1970 and the number of graduates by 15.4 per cent in the same period.

That is the way things are, Mr. Speaker. Those are the conditions experienced by the young people between 18 and 24 who are graduating from colleges and universities. That is the dead-end awaiting the young Canadians who made the necessary sacrifices to obtain a sound training and who cannot find any outlet for their energies, their talent and their knowledge, which would be so useful to the country to help all people enjoy a higher standard of living, to the extent of our material and human resources.

But such is not the case. Thousands of Canadian families are deprived of the bare minimum, while stores and warehouses are glutted with all kinds of goods that could satisfy the essential needs of all Canadian families.

Mills are closing down or are operating below capacity while Canadians, especially young people between 18 and 24, who are ready to devote their efforts and skills to the Canadian community, so that it may take advantage of their knowledge, are compelled to remain idle, unproductive and even in certain cases, to live at the expense of the State.

However, Mr. Speaker, there remains so much to be done in this country. I feel that we should do the utmost to enable those young people to put their talents to good use.

We need housing, schools and universities. Many ridings and small towns are not yet equipped with community centres or homes for retired people.

In certain areas, improved transportation would be required to move goods to larger centres. We also need community centres, libraries, and God knows what.