

Economic Growth and Employment Situation

fact that he or she has attended the training course in accordance with the local regulation.

The report of the Royal Commission of 1910 also mentions the existence of similar laws in certain states of Germany where vocational schools must be set up in every community where more than 40 boys from 14 to 17 are working in industry or commerce. Those schools are either industrial or commercial, or both, depending on the needs of the community. Every youth between the ages of 14 and 17 is required to attend school and local authorities may require him or her to attend vocational school till age 18 if he has not reached a sufficient level of education or training when he reaches age 17.

This is a good way to educate the young to ready them for the labour market. From this survey—which surely involved the spending of several thousands of dollars—our administrators should have reached the greatest possible number of agreements with Canadian manufacturers, thus compounding theory with practice.

There would thus be a higher percentage of our young people who would be quite readily accepted on the labour market since they would be in a position to demonstrate that they have acquired, in the course of their education, a sufficient experience and that their services will be appreciated.

This method would have yielded much better results than advertising open positions abroad and encouraging immigration to Canada, since we would have had a good supply of skilled manpower right here at home to meet the needs of our industries.

In the past, when a student left school after seven or eight years of learning, he was readying himself to face the unknown. He knew that once he had found a job, which was not always easy, he would have to work hard to make his way. He knew particularly that there would still be many things to learn in order to attain an enviable position.

Now, it is different. After about fifteen or more years of learning, our young people leave education institutions with impressive diplomas and an edifying stock of knowledge. They expect that we will welcome them with open arms. But frequently, a Ph.D. and a master's degree open no doors.

And especially these last few years, a number of new faculties have been created, but apparently we have failed to ensure that those branches of learning would provide a living to the students. For instance, what would be the purpose of having young people take history, sociology or any other science, if the most brilliant graduates have to be content with jobs completely removed from their qualifications and knowledge?

I would hope, Mr. Speaker, that government authorities will finally take the proper attitude in the circumstances, in order to provide young people with job opportunities consistent with their education.

• (2:30 p.m.)

[English]

Mr. P. M. Mahoney (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I should like to thank the

[Mr. Dionne.]

Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Douglas) for yet another opportunity to report, in a play-by-play fashion, on the growth of the Canadian economy, its strength and its relatively superior performance as compared to the performance of other free industrial nations during the past couple of years, superior growth, strength and performance which continue to this day and show every sign of continuing at increasing rates throughout the year. This has been a play-by-play report because, since the finance minister's December 3 budget, there have been 61 sitting days. During that period, we have had a number of opportunities to discuss the economy during private members' hour and the adjournment debate. We have had a six-day budget debate; we have had a better than three-day pseudo budget debate during the committee of the whole and third reading stage of Bill C-225, the budget bill; and this is the fourth of seven allotted days that opposition parties have given over to debating the state of the economy. In all, about 14 days has been spent on this subject, a figure approached in this session only by the 11 full days so far devoted to the government organization bill.

The Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Stanbury) responsible for citizenship will deal at length with summer youth employment programs. Incidentally, Sir, I ought to say at this time that he will be the principal spokesman for this side of the House.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): The hon. member should not downgrade himself.

Mr. Mahoney: This is something that the opposition parties, in spite of the motion, have already neglected. The fact remains that in our free enterprise economy, the basic solutions to economic problems lie in the private sector. I think the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) would agree with me when I say there is a limit to the direct results that public sector action can achieve. Optimum results flow from a combination of public and private decisions, public and private action and public and private policies when the public input creates the economic environment within which sound private business decisions can be made. For that reason, Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my remarks to the general economic climate in Canada, to the economic environment in which Canadian business lives now and in which it will for the foreseeable future be making its decisions.

In the first place, as a result of the government's firm leadership last October, Canada will, in the political sense, continue to be a safe and secure place to do business. Indeed, some parts of Canada will be even safer and more secure than have been regarded as being in the recent past.

The obvious question arises: will Canada continue to present itself as not only a safe place but an hospitable place to do business? I suppose that the business community sees two particular areas of concern here, the first in the results of tax reform and the second in the results of the foreign investment review. As to the first, the area of tax reform, there really is little to be said right now. The government's decision will be known