

### *Employment Programs*

The Americans have found this program very successful because of its flexibility. It would require government administration because of the great initial cash outlay required, but it would be self-paying and could even be profit-making. It is at least worth investigating. I am sure that students would not object to a better-implemented student loans plan. Students do not mind taking out loans if they have an opportunity to repay them. Most students are responsible and will not default on their obligations, but new needs must be met by new loan flexibility. It is to be noted that such a plan in the long run could take the pressure off the taxpayer. More importantly, however, this program would provide the extra funds needed in years of great student unemployment such as this, with the increasing cost of living and other expenses.

● (8:50 p.m.)

We must also, Mr. Speaker, consider the plight of the university graduate in this country. The great increase in enrolment in postgraduate schools is proof of the feeling among graduates that their time is better spent trying to further their education than trying to find permanent jobs. It is estimated by the Technical Service Council that professional openings are down 30 per cent nationally, with a 17 per cent increase in those seeking jobs.

The Atlantic provinces, followed by the Prairies, have the greatest reduction in job openings. To blame this situation on an increase in the number of graduates is ridiculous. The present situation can only discourage those with aspirations to attend university. A developing nation such as Canada cannot afford to discourage its young people in furthering their education. This situation must fall back on the tragic economic position in which the federal government has placed our young people this summer. The class of '71 must be questioning the value of education. For the past two decades a tremendous emphasis has been put on education. Our young people were told that a degree would guarantee them a worth while career and a higher standard of living. Whether or not this is true, it is what they have been told. Now many graduates will tell you that a degree is worthless.

In the last decade the number of graduates has greatly increased. For example, in education and engineering, doctorate degrees have increased by 1,014 per cent and 895 per cent respectively. Those with a doctorate degree face an unemployment problem just as serious as that of anyone else. The plight of the graduate student must be attributed to the slump in our economy. Industry will not hire and train young personnel in the present economic situation. The solution for the graduate is the same as the solution for all unemployed in this country. Our economy must be stimulated and expansion and industrial growth must be encouraged. Until this happens, our educated young will be denied an opportunity to use their newly acquired skills.

So far as the student who is still attending university is concerned, his problem will only be solved with long-range government planning and programs. Government aid must be more flexible to take into account regional disparities and the disadvantages of the rural student. In short, we must strive to make a university education

[Mr. Murta.]

universally accessible. The standard of living and quality of life in a country is directly related to the educational opportunities the country offers its young people. If we fail to provide these opportunities we will surely hinder the development of our industry, our economy and our Canadian culture.

**Mr. Norman A. Cafik (Ontario):** Mr. Speaker, the motion before us states that this House records its deep concern upon reviewing the government's continuing repudiation of its duty to establish full employment programs, then it goes on to talk about young Canadians. In the first instance I should like to talk about the word "repudiation". So far as I know, the word means to disown, reject or refuse to admit. In my view, the government certainly has not refused to admit it has any responsibility or duty in connection with creating employment in this country. One might, depending on his political position, I suppose, and his personal view feel that the government has not done enough in terms of creating employment in Canada. I should like to speak to that for a moment and review some of the problems, because I do not think most of them are capable of simple solution as many would have us believe.

This is a big problem. As a responsible government we must begin to look at the problem in its proper context to see the long-run effect of the actions we will take. First of all, when we look at the large influx of new people into our labour force we realize the magnitude of the problem. It is reported in a 15-year projection from 1967 to 1982 that Canada will introduce more young people into its labour force than the total number in Italy, Germany and the United Kingdom. When we bear in mind that the population of these three countries is 180 million people and the population of Canada is 22 million, we realize that we are going to inject into our small labour force more in that period than these three countries combined; we see that we are inheriting a problem which is of enormous proportions which will be difficult to deal with if we only look at that aspect alone.

It seems to me we are reaping a problem resulting from the fact that past governments did not plan in a long-term way for solutions to the problems of our generation.

I am happy to say that I am convinced this government is looking at our long-range problems. It is high time some government did. We began to look at the over-all economic position, at our trade policies and our industries in an effort to find ways of rationalizing them. We began to look at the way our people are being trained and provided with the education necessary to fit them into the work force, and in the meantime we have provided our young people with activities to keep them busy. For instance, this year we are spending \$68 million in this area alone. We have slowly begun to solve these long-term difficulties which I defy anyone to solve by some quick, mystical, magical solution. On the other hand, there is the rapid rate of technological change not only in Canada but in the world. We are not unique in this respect. Our country, however, more than many others has had an agrarian economy for many years and we now see a