

has tripled, to more than 400,000, and the youth unemployment rate has more than doubled to 13.1 per cent in October.

Figures given out by the Economic Council of Canada are not more encouraging. In 1960 the youth unemployment rate was 1.7 times higher than the adult rate. By 1970 it had climbed up to 2.3 times the adult rate. In 1976 it was 2.5 times the adult unemployment rate. Now it is three times that, three times the unemployed rate in the regular work force. Technocrats can probably find the reasons for it, but that does not make it more acceptable for those young people who are unemployed.

But we also have to give the other side of the medal. It is a known fact that youth unemployment causes a company to make major investments. When an employer hires a group of youths, it is a fact that there is an expense cost for him in developing skills training programs. A high rate of turnover in youth is often a major factor which might make an employer hesitate. Also it is a fact that many young people at least seem to be less productive at the beginning of their careers than the rest of the labour market. But I think it is the responsibility of the government to try to minimize these effects, and the Liberal government was doing that already.

I can talk about the different kinds of youth unemployment programs. For the last few years the Liberal government set up a special Canada Manpower centre for youth co-operation and education programs which were joint federal-provincial initiatives to encourage the development of co-operative and work experience programs in order to facilitate the transition of young people from school and their integration into the labour

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force. Canada Manpower centres on campus play a positive role but there are jurisdictional federal-provincial conflicts. Job exploration and job experience training programs were designed to provide secondary school students with opportunity, based on exposure to the unemployment market, to make an informed and realistic career decision as to whether to continue with the in-school education process or to enter the labour force market on a permanent basis.

Following that, the Liberal government set up the Student Summer Employment and Activities program, Canada Manpower Centres for Students, the Young Canada Works program and the Summer Job Corps. These programs all have budgets which have increased in the last few years. The rise in youth unemployment must be kept to a minimum. We are hoping that the present government will continue those types of programs, not only for now, but for next summer. Also we are hoping that even though they waited for the month of December to announce programs for the creation of jobs for the winter and the spring, they will not wait until the month of July to do the same thing for the summer and fall.

An hon. Member: They probably will not be here.

Mr. Dawson: As the hon. member behind me said, probably they will not be here then. I hope we, as a Liberal government, will be over there trying to create those jobs.

May I call it six o'clock?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It being six o'clock, the House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 2 p.m., pursuant to Standing Order 2(1).

At six o'clock the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.