

*Supply*

the greatest possible number of young people to enter the labour market.

[English]

**Mr. Robert Wenman (Fraser Valley West):** Mr. Speaker, on a downtown Ottawa building the following graffiti appears: "In a society that has destroyed all real adventure, the only real adventure is to destroy the society." We are seeing that kind of attitude in our young people today, an attitude which can only lead to pessimism, lack of hope, nihilism and anarchy. Are these the kinds of directions which we are really seeking for the country?

Unemployment sees first a loss of self-respect; second, a loss of respect for authority; and, finally, the unfortunate opting out or unfortunate fighting back against a society which refuses to give hope or opportunity. Last year in British Columbia there were 9.6 per cent unemployed. At that time we thought that 9.6 per cent was very high and that it could not possibly be higher. Even at 9.6 per cent we knew that there were at least some who were not really seeking work. They were registered but not necessarily seeking work or, if they were, in fact they were seeking it selectively. In other words, "I will work for this much but not for that much." There was some of that up to the 9.6 per cent, but certainly not all the way to 9.6 per cent. Now the unemployment rate of last summer has turned into 18.7 per cent young people unemployed. We are talking about people who are seeking employment. They are not seeking employment selectively; they are seeking any kind of employment and any kind of opportunity. Mr. Speaker, I wish you could see the picture I have here of Mark Fuller parading on Vancouver streets. I know you cannot see it; you could not see it if you wanted to see it; but if you could, you would see that Mark Fuller's placard says: "For hire, one slightly used 22-year old male. I need employment. Will try almost anything". On the placard is also his telephone number. The placard is a public and desperate plea for help.

● (2130)

There was a time when some young people went through a period of collecting UIC benefits when they joined the Banff UIC team or the Whistler UIC team, but they did so for just a short period of time. They did so only until benefits ran out. However, something new is happening. All of a sudden such people find that when UI benefits run out, there is no place left to go because there are no jobs, even if they wanted them. There are no jobs even for the bright, the well-educated or those who have the will to work. There are no opportunities. Bright young people are turning to welfare and from welfare to a no-hope treadmill.

We talk about how Canada was built on the basis of the work ethic. I uphold the work ethic all the time. We must rebuild the work ethic, but how can we do it? A work ethic is meaningless if there is no work. If there is no work, how can we have a work ethic?

Hon. members should put themselves into the place of high school graduates today. What opportunity do high school

graduates have? They have no experience. They are out in the world looking for experience. The easy line used to be, "You don't have any experience", but now not only are there no opportunities for the inexperienced but even those who are experienced are losing opportunities and jobs. Even if those who are experienced cannot get jobs, how can those who are not? What hope is there for high school students graduating next month and wanting to go to universities, technical schools and vocational schools? It takes money to do that because the federal government is cutting back on expenditures for educational services. All of a sudden the cost of university fees, tuition, books and board will double in many cases. Expenses next year will be twice what they were this year, and the number of job opportunities will be half. Graduates will not be able to get jobs at any rate of pay. They will not be able to go back to school. What hope is there for high school students?

**Mr. Riis:** No hope.

**Mr. Wenman:** That is right, there is no hope. This is the situation not just for high school graduates but also for university graduates, technical school graduates, vocational school graduates and others who have skills. There has been no over-all strategy for education and for preparing people for the work force. The employment balance is out. People who are needed are not where they should be because there has been no over-all educational strategy and no employment co-ordination strategy for young Canadians.

It is one thing to see older people or middle-aged people unemployed. Those people have been used to the Liberal government for a decade. They are used to periods of unemployment. They have lost hope. A husband and wife, both 35 years old, came to my office. Both of them are professionals. They have worked steadily for ten years. They went to high school and, after high school, worked their way through university by working during the summers. They obtained degrees and went out and got jobs. They were employed for ten years and earned seniority in their positions. They both lost that, as well as their jobs. They have been unemployed for six months. This has never happened to them in ten years. They have a young family. Their mortgage payments doubled. They have lost their home, and that is what they came to see me about. It was not because they lost their jobs; they gave up on those a long time ago. They asked if I would call the bank or do something to try to save their home. These people have become accustomed to this no-hope government. They have become accustomed to no opportunity and the wasted potential of this land.

Some younger people, those between the ages of 18 and 25, still have a spark of hope, but hon. members should see their faces when I tell them there are no jobs for them. At one time when they came to my office I could send them to six, seven or eight places and, if they were willing to do anything for low wages, something could be found for them. I suppose now I could send them around a big circle, they would come back