

these national parks, work in which many of these students could be employed.

• (3:40 p.m.)

Something should be done to persuade industries, if possible, to reconsider their decisions to close down completely for two weeks at a time.

There are three main groups of young people about whom we should be especially concerned. There are the students who will graduate from universities in Canada this spring, an estimated 88,000. To this number should be added graduates from community colleges, who will add another 18,000 young Canadians to those seeking employment. Then there are the undergraduate students who need summer employment to enable them to continue their education. According to D.B.S. figures there are 204,000 of these students, and they will be on the labour market this spring. Last year, 74,000 of them never found jobs. I am sure we have all noted the growing numbers of students who need summer employment so as to meet, or partly meet, the cost of their education. It is true some of them are fortunate enough to have scholarships or well to do parents, but the great majority require at least part time summer work to pay for their board and tuition fees which in Ontario amount to approximately \$2,000 a year.

Then there is the problem presented by young people who cannot be classed in any significant number among university undergraduates or graduates. Figures supplied to this house by the Department of Manpower and Immigration in relation to this group indicate the proportions of the difficulty of finding work for them. The figures I am about to put on record relate to unemployed persons in Canada between the ages of 14 and 19. This age group roughly covers high school students and so-called drop-outs. In June of last year there were 153,000 unemployed in this group. By July the figure had fallen to 143,000. Of the 153,000 unemployed in June, 13,000 were in the Atlantic provinces, 14,000 in the province of Quebec, 30,000 in Ontario, 14,000 on the prairies and 19,000 in British Columbia. This total figure of 153,000 had risen from a total of 111,000 in June, 1967. It is estimated that the figure will increase to more than 180,000 in 1969, and it is quite conceivable that it will be as high as 200,000. When these unemployed youths, largely non-students, are added to the number of undergraduate job seekers and graduates seeking permanent employment, a formidable figure

Alleged Failure to Reduce Unemployment is reached and it becomes apparent that the youthful unemployed pose a problem of major proportions.

I would be interested, as I am sure all hon. members would be, to hear what plans the minister and his colleagues have to meet this huge and legitimate demand by Canadian youth for a place in the economy. If the minister can announce some concrete program in this regard he will be setting an example for his party, and we shall be looking forward to hearing his plans concerning this vital bread and butter issue.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Hales: A survey taken by the *Financial Post* last fall disclosed that this year the increase in available jobs would run well behind the output of graduates. To make matters worse, potential employers are becoming very selective. The demand has narrowed to three or four faculties such as business administration, computer science, geology, mining engineering and the like. Student graduates in general arts and social sciences, civil, mechanical and electrical engineering face narrowing prospects.

What does the government propose to do about this situation? Should there not have been greater co-operation between the universities and the government? I suggest the government should have asked the universities to tailor their courses to meet the employment demand. However, little seems to have been done in this direction. Mr. V. C. Martell, manager of the Canada Manpower Centre at Dalhousie University, is reported as having said:

It looks as though the general arts students, particularly the girls, are the ones who will suffer most. And we are producing more of them than anything else.

What we should like to hear from the government right now is evidence that hon. gentlemen opposite have a plan to meet this situation. We want positive action, a crash program. For goodness sake don't tell us that another task force is to be set up. We have had enough of them. We want action. Jobs for students cannot be regarded as a form of aid. Jobs for students represent an investment in Canada.

The Economic Council of Canada has brought this question sharply into focus by saying it is imperative to educate our young people and then put that education to the fullest possible use. This is as important to us as are the calls of national defence. Last