

*Alleged Failure of Employment Policies*

human resources at our disposal we are allowing this great amount of hard cash to be drained away. I do not understand how a government can claim to be managing the affairs of this country efficiently in the face of those two situations, the completely unnecessary heavy drain on taxpayers and the country having to sustain an economic loss of between \$2 billion and \$4 billion yearly.

The situation is even more costly from a human standpoint. Lives are being wasted on a very large scale. There is a great loss of human wealth. People are not able to use their abilities to serve their community in the way they should. What I am saying is not fantastic or unrealistic; it is a sober statement. Canada has gone to much trouble in the past to bring great human wealth and capacities from other countries to our shores. We have tried to develop good conditions for our own people. However, because of the mismanagement policies of this government in deliberately creating unemployment, these good results are being lost.

There is much talk about the need to educate people for increased leisure time. People need and have a right to leisure, but they also have a right to work. We are in danger of losing sight of this human right: it is being lost on a very large scale. People need to work; in fact, they want to work, no matter how many fancy words are used in saying that people now can live in a state where the Puritan ethic of work no longer applies.

• (3:40 p.m.)

I do not care how many fancy words are used about the development of a state approaching paradise, where no one has to work and where we can all sit around playing harps and wearing crowns, or their modern equivalent of guitars and beads. The world is not like that. Indeed, we ought not to wish for a world of that kind because it is only through work, through one's occupation, that it is possible to grow and develop. Work is one of the most valuable things there is.

Today, machines have taken away many of the more disagreeable tasks. It is up to the government to give the lead in developing other forms of work which will give people an opportunity to serve their fellow human beings in various ways. In removing the need for a great many kinds of work, machines have led to a need for new kinds of work—work in the service occupations, the human occupations such as teaching, working in libraries, in travel fields, in recreation. These

new jobs need to be pioneered. This is what the government should be doing instead of firing civil servants and cutting down employment. If private business cannot do the pioneering work in providing these jobs, the government should be giving a lead.

A new approach is required. We need to create new skills and the jobs that go with them. I turn, now, to the necessity for a fresh approach to manpower policies. At present the emphasis is focused on the needs of existing employers; people are trained to fill empty slots in the existing employment picture. I am sorry the minister has disappeared at this critical moment. Perhaps he is just behind the curtain: if so, I wish he would let me know he is there because I should like to address these words specially to him.

We ought to place the emphasis in manpower training on the placement of the unemployed and the underemployed. Private employment agencies are increasingly taking over the job of finding recruits for private business. This is the case in my own province and I believe it to be the case across Canada. Our new policies ought to be built, not around industries but around people and their needs. We should be using the development incentive legislation in such a way as to assist necessary industries which can best provide jobs for people. I am glad to see the minister back in his place. I intend to repeat that sentence because he may not have heard it all. I believe we should be using the development incentive legislation in such a way as to assist the necessary industries which can best provide job opportunities on a wide scale. This is the type of industry we should encourage—new industries which will provide jobs increasingly, especially in service occupations.

In this regard I wish to make two or three comments upon shortcomings of the Adult Occupational Training Act. There is scarcely need to do more than underline what has been stated before the Senate Committee on Poverty in the course of many able and important briefs. My hon. friend from Oshawa-Whitby has mentioned one of these briefs in particular, the Frontier College brief. One from the Adult Education Association was also outstanding. There were many others briefs deserving of notice.

One of the organizations whose representatives appeared before the committee was the Unemployed Citizens Welfare Group Council from my own city of Vancouver. I want to refer to them because they drew attention to