

Employment of Graduate Students

who is responsible for the situation which has been created? I submit that it is the government, and that the government has a distinct responsibility to produce a policy to remove the pressure from students who are finding difficulties today in discharging their obligations.

The government continues to improvise last minute measures to deal with crisis situations which have deeply imbedded root causes, causes which are mostly of its own making, and unless the approach of hon. gentlemen opposite to the basic task of restoring faith in the Canadian economy changes, there is little hope for the future generation. Something must be done to end this serious situation and the resources of the government must be called upon, since the state of affairs I have described is a product of its own making. First of all, hon. gentlemen on the treasury benches opposite must take immediate and effective action to stimulate the economy, since unemployment among the young is only part of the larger problem of chronic unemployment which has existed throughout the tenure of the present administration. If we agree that tomorrow's leaders are today's students, we must give these students an opportunity to find ways of earning their education; we must provide productive means by which they can utilize their talents and abilities.

The government should also consider using tax incentives as a means of inducing companies to employ students, and, possibly, young people taking on their first job. These provisions could be administered in a number of ways but the most useful, in my view, would be one which provided for a program of permanently available work. It is my understanding that such a program is presently under consideration by a committee of ministers of education, and I believe the government would be wise to pursue such a course. Possibly a shorter working week might be considered. If those who are presently working are to be asked to support the chronically unemployed, it appears to be reasonable to consider the advantages of a shorter working week in certain areas.

We all know that the serious summer employment issue which existed among students earlier this year will continue to cause difficulties and hardship among students until a permanent system of utilizing student manpower is adopted. I think it is realistic to envisage a semi-permanent work force among this group, a work force which would contribute to society and to industry while at the same time imparting a sense of responsibility and challenge among our young people. I believe work is certainly necessary. It is an integral part of achieving a wholesome and invigorating life. Accordingly, the provision of work should be considered a priority. I am sure that today many of our young people are bewildered when they recall the pronouncements made by the Prime Minister some two and a half years ago. They responded to the call "Come, work with me"; they responded to his appeal to help build a just society. Today they are told that the just society is but a distant ideal, they are told we live in an age of clash and confrontation. To a vast number of young Canadians, the just society they were promised turns out to be a society which, for them, holds little future, little promise, little challenge and little

[Mr. Mazankowski.]

opportunity. They stand on the threshold of a greatness which for them will probably never become a reality but merely remain a distant ideal.

I, therefore, propose the following amendment, seconded by my hon. friend from Gander-Twillingate (Mr. Lundrigan):

By deleting all the words after the word "Government" on line eight and adding thereto the following:

"has not adopted such fiscal and economic policies as would stimulate the economy and allow young people to better contribute to national growth."

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity provided by the hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Fortin) to debate the issue before us today.

The government's policy of deliberately creating unemployment, and of increasing unemployment as a method of fighting inflation, is in my view the most cold-hearted and callous policy that the administration has adopted during the past two and a half years of its existence. It has done immeasurable damage to individuals, to the Canadian economy and to society as a whole. Today, as a result of this policy, some 476,000 people are unemployed. This represents 6.5 per cent of our work force on a seasonally adjusted basis. It is the highest rate of unemployment in any industrialized nation of the world. This is not a very proud record for a government which was supposed to introduce us to the new politics in the 20th Century. Moreover, the result of this policy has been little improvement in terms of the fight against inflation. We find that it has had only a negligible effect and has but marginally decreased prices in Canada.

● (4:00 p.m.)

The policy of creating unemployment to fight inflation is essentially a farce. The cure is worse than the disease itself, though the disease is nowhere near the point of cure. This cold hearted approach on the part of the government may look good on paper to the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), the Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. Lang) and a few other ministers, but it certainly does not look good to the half million or so Canadians who are unemployed in Canada today, and particularly to their families.

There are many by-products of a policy such as this, one of which is that it is the young people of Canada who essentially are taking the brunt of the government's policy to fight inflation. Evidence to this effect can be found in the unemployment statistics for November. According to these figures, approximately 45 per cent of the unemployed of Canada are under the age of 25. The number of young people who are unemployed has increased drastically this year over last year. In 1969, 148,000 young people under the age of 25 were unemployed, whereas last month this figure had risen to 212,000. These young people are to be found in every city in Canada, and as I say they are taking the brunt of the government's policy of creating unemployment to fight inflation. Indeed, over 10 per cent of our young people in Canada today are unemployed.