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happen. A number of the colleges will be closed. A large number of them will be cutting back on their programs. To survive, a university will first have to raise its fees, lower its quotas, cut back on the number of classes and cut down on its facilities such as libraries and laboratories. The result will be fewer students getting a lower quality education, an education that may not get them a job in the end. What about those desiring education without any funds because they cannot get any summer employment? Once again they are caught in a Catch-22 situation.

In addressing the area of training, we find that the government has been slow to address the problem. Our nation had needed skilled workers. Had the Alsands project gone ahead, we would have needed a dramatic number of skilled workers in this country. We would have had more job opportunities than people to fill them. Our government has been very slow in bringing in training programs.

We talked about Bill C-115 today. As my colleague from Rosedale said, we look forward to supporting any bill that offers increased training opportunities for our young people, women and the Canadian population in general. That is the kind of thing we encourage this government to do.

Today we find ourselves in a really serious, desperate human paradox. We have high youth unemployment. At the same time we have a lack of skilled workers. The government is not addressing the problem. It is not providing choices for our young people. It is not providing either the job or, as I discussed a few minutes ago, the opportunity for education. It is a double-whammy. It is no job or simply a dead-end job. There is no opportunity to train for something that may lead to a job.

The question is, where will the future of Canada be without trained and educated young people? Where will Canada be if our youth are not given an opportunity? Instead, our government is banishing our youth to a life dependent on government assistance. Instead, it should be providing them with opportunities rather than removing those opportunities.

What are the costs of youth unemployment on a country such as Canada? There are two main costs. The first is the social cost and the second is an economic cost. Let us look first at the social cost. Among our young people who are looking for jobs we find a high level of discouragement, a high level of frustration. That can lead to petty crime, vandalism, a feeling of helplessness, an acceptance of a condition that exists, an idea of never going beyond government assistance which they receive at the moment. They begin to feel that things will never get better. All the time they have been looking for a job, they have been refused. That is their experience and that is what they expect to go on. Society is not benefiting from that whole rash of new ideas that we usually attribute to our people.

What about the economic cost? If you look at the unemployment in this group, Mr. Speaker, you find that they are not actively producing. They are not adding to our gross national product. I want to refer to a research study that was done and read a short quotation from it. I quote:

The direct or primary effects of cutting youth unemployment rates in half in 1977 would have been to increase the Canadian GNP by something of the order of 1 per cent, or roughly \$2 billion at 1977 prices. Including the secondary effects as well, the total increase would perhaps have been in the order of 4 per cent or \$8 billion.

In other words, had we cut the unemployment rate of our young people in 1977 and brought it down to the national average for all age groups, it would have added one direct percentage point to our GNP. It would have taken \$2 billion that would be filtered throughout our economy. The secondary effects might have been \$8 billion or 4 per cent.

I see that my time has almost expired. I want to close by saying that the short-term solutions to the problem are job-creation programs. However, we can never lose sight of the fact that they are nothing more than short-term opportunities. They are an interim solution and nothing better. They are a temporary alternative.

In the long term, what we need to do is to create an environment for our youth to find their own spot in society. We need to restore their opportunity to be independent. We need to restore their opportunity for a good applicable education. They need to be given opportunities to be trained in something they want to do. They must be trained in a way that they can do something to contribute to our country. It all begins very simply by creating in Canada a climate for job-creating investment. That is the bottom line.

One sector we can look at is, very simply, the energy sector. There is a demand for those products. We know there is an opportunity to create jobs there. Those jobs will benefit our youth and the entire Canadian population.

I would like to close with that and emphasize the fact that the number one bottom line we need in this country is an investment climate that will create the risk-takers who in turn will create jobs in this country.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Jean-Guy Dubois (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to join my colleagues in participating in this debate, because the subject is one in which I am particularly interested, like anyone who is anxious to see the economic situation improve across Canada, and especially in Quebec. In fact, my own province is among those which have been most severely affected by the economic problems we are experiencing today, and which have also affected a large number of young people. The unemployment statistics for the past months have given considerable cause for concern. For instance, approximately 28,000 jobs were lost in a single month, and the unemployment rate has now reached 13 per cent.

Once again, if we look at the over-all statistics, it is clear that they include many young workers or students who are preparing to join the labour force. In the present state of the economy, it has become particularly urgent to seek new concepts and new solutions to our economic problems. We are examining new ways of establishing a co-operative formula with a view to solving those problems, because it is clear that nothing can be achieved if the parties concerned keep to