

1960s but in light of the problems of 1970-71, in light of an unemployment rate of 6 per cent for the year and a winter unemployment rate which in Quebec, the Maritime provinces and even in the wealthy province of British Columbia will be substantially more than 12 per cent, a figure which none of us ought to accept.

[Translation]

Mr. Romuald Rodrigue (Beauce): Mr. Speaker, the previous speakers have extolled the merits of education for young people. In fact, those who have remained longer in schools or universities should enjoy much greater advantages than others.

This is indeed the tune played by the government and para-governmental agencies such as the Unemployment Insurance Commission, the Canada Manpower Centre and the Economic Council of Canada.

The annual reports of the Economic Council of Canada have first praised the merits of education, as evidenced by the following statement recorded on page 71 of the Second Annual Report of this agency:

It has been long recognized that education possesses intrinsic value as a factor enhancing the quality and enjoyment of life of individuals, as well as the quality and energy of a whole society.

But the report goes further in recognizing that education also has economic aspects, the nature and dimensions of which are just beginning to make their importance felt.

According to the Economic Council of Canada, the establishment and maintenance of a high rate of economic growth is one of the primary objectives of all industrialized countries.

In its first report, the Economic Council of Canada states that, to have a high rate of economic growth, all productive resources, both physical and human, must be used and that the growth of the Canadian economy is dependent upon the quantity and the quality of the resources used, that is, first of all, labour, both quantitatively and qualitatively, and, finally, a rational use of available capital.

• (9:10 p.m.)

In its second annual review, the Economic Council of Canada noted the progress made in the 1950-60 decade with regard to the productivity and growth of the Canadian economy. We may read on page 71 the following:

Among the factors contributing substantially to the rate of growth of real income per capita over this period have been: Labour Input—There has been a substantial improvement in the quality of labour associated with a rising level of formal education.

Further, at page 68 of this review, progress realized in Canada in the field of education is compared with progress made in the United States and it is thought that this will be in favour of Canadians.

Employment of Graduate Students

Here is how this reads:

A rising level of educational attainment is, therefore, likely to be a much more important factor in economic growth in Canada over the next two decades than over the past two decades. Moreover, there may well be some narrowing of the gap in educational levels between Canada and the United States during the coming decade.

And further, the review points out that the real average income of Canadians in 1961, compared with 1911, was higher by a quarter from what it would have been had not the level of education increased.

In the review, a statement made by the late President Kennedy is quoted in support of the argument that education affects the income level of the people. The extract from President Kennedy's message to Congress on January 29, 1963, reads as follows:

This nation is committed to greater investments in economic growth; and recent research has shown that one of the most beneficial of all such investments is education, accounting for some 40 per cent of the nation's growth in productivity... It is an investment which yields a substantial return in the higher wages and purchasing power of trained workers, in the new products and techniques which come from skilled minds, and in the constant expansion of this nation's storehouse of useful knowledge.

Those are words that every Canadian politician would have liked to have uttered if present experience did not demonstrate that the increase in the number of skilled workers and the level of education has had practically no effect on the vitality of Canada's economy which readily does without the qualifications and the will to work of new graduates since it does not hire them, and finally that the increase in the number of educated workers is not reflected by an improvement in the general standard of living of Canadians.

In this regard, Dr. Arthur J. Smith, President of the Economic Council of Canada, in the course of a lecture he delivered in Montreal to representatives of the North American Society for Corporate Planning, stated that the rate of growth must not only be continuous and quantitatively high, but also of a quality appropriate to the country's needs. According to Dr. Smith, some four billion dollars are being wasted in Canada, which are not reflected by new products. We are not progressing as we should because a large number of our young people are not now employed in production.

According to the Chairman of the Economic Council of Canada there is a gap between the possibilities and the present growth rate of the economy.

The immediate result is an increase in unemployment. On the other hand there is a reduction in the growth rate of productivity, in the average working hours of employed people, a decrease in the rhythm of creation of jobs with respect to the increasing number of people who enter the labour market. There is a decrease in the production rhythm in various industries with respect to their capacity.

Now, Mr. Speaker, those figures give us food for thought. Those are the hopes which were given to young