

room. On top of this the northern mines have cut back on student hiring.

Jobs in the cities for rural students are, as I have already mentioned, at a premium. One must come to the conclusion that there is indeed a crisis for the rural student this year if he wants to further his education. Many will have to drop out and some will undoubtedly join the ranks of the permanently unemployed. Once a student has dropped out, he often finds it quite difficult to get back into the university system.

To meet this serious situation the government has made an ill-fated attempt to provide summer jobs for students. The program must be judged a failure because it has not met the basic need of a summer student, which is to make money. Under the Opportunities for Youth program the per capita grant seems to average out well below \$1,000. For the rural student who is lucky enough to be a participant, this is a grossly inadequate sum. If the student is able to take advantage of home living this figure might be reasonable, but as one can see by the Secretary of State's releases the vast majority of grants have been to students in urban areas.

The Secretary of State (Mr. Pelletier) might reply that he has received few applications from rural communities, but I submit that this is the fault of the government rather than of the community. I know of one instance in my home constituency where Manpower did not have the information available for local organizers until four days before the submission deadline. Even at this late date the Manpower officer could not give any specific details. Several rural groups have not yet been notified whether or not their project has been accepted.

Officials of the Opportunities for Youth program have declined to make a province by province breakdown of the funds allotted. Last week in the *Globe and Mail* one spokesman was quoted as saying that such a breakdown could create unnecessary charges of favouritism, especially in the prairie and Atlantic regions, and he indicated that there were logical reasons for the breakdown. It seems to me that these officials should be made to account for the division of the money spent. Prairie students have just as high, if not higher, a level of unemployment as the rest of the country.

There are drastic faults in the Opportunities for Youth program. The program was announced shortly before the commencement of the spring examinations and the students who were deeply involved in study had little time for detailed development of a program to meet approval. The desired criterion needed for approval of a project was not made known. The Manpower officers were not given the information needed to answer local inquiries. Of course, in Ottawa the office seemed to be under total disorganization. Letters of inquiry went unanswered, officials could not be reached and the telephone often remained unanswered.

However, this government's announcement saved them from a temporary crisis. It put up an illusion of concern and action. Surely another crisis will come in September when thousands of university students find they do not have the cash needed to return to school. The govern-

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ment should prepare for this situation now. We cannot afford to deny this opportunity to our youth to further their education simply because of the government's lack of foresight and imagination.

I have a number of suggestions as to where the federal government might begin. In the first place, the government must take seriously the problems of student unemployment and of aid for financing education. They cannot ignore or shrink from this problem or shrug it off as a provincial responsibility; the federal government must become involved. If in the future the government is going to organize a program such as this year's Opportunities for Youth, the program should be designed to meet certain objectives. The first objective should be to provide the participant with an opportunity to earn enough cash to help finance his education rather than just to provide summer spending money.

The program should aim at being productive in nature. Projects are simply a waste of money if the participant is not doing something useful or if he is not making some contribution to society. Of course, this type of government employment can only be created with long-range planning and a good deal of organization.

The Canada Student Loans Act needs revamping. This act which makes interest-free loans available to students was enacted in 1964-65. Since then the cost of living has increased 30 to 35 per cent and tuition fees have risen correspondingly. It is time for the government to re-examine the \$1,000 yearly maximum a student can obtain under the plan. Perhaps it should consider raising the yearly maximum to \$1,500 or \$2,000 and its total aggregate to \$7,500, instead of the present \$1,000 and \$5,000 levels. It is also time for the federal government to lay down more equitable guidelines for the distribution of these funds. Presently a means test is employed and, as is the case with most means tests, it is greatly abused. Guidelines should be issued to the provinces each year on the administration of the plan. The loans should be graded and increased each year with allowances made to meet the increased cost of living.

The Americans have been experimenting with a new type of loan plan for students which makes allowances to compensate for poor summer jobs and increased costs. It is called the Pay as You Earn plan. This program is not as rigid as the Canada student loans plan and is presently administered in several universities in the United States. I am not advocating that the Canadian government adopt this kind of plan but it is certainly the type of plan that bears looking into.

The program is also unique in that it puts the onus on the student to pay for his own education rather than rely on various bursaries. The program makes available all the money needed for the student to continue his education. Repayment is financed by what might be described as a long-term mortgage, the borrower paying a small percentage of his income for a period of 20 or 25 years, depending on how the plan is worked out. This repayment figure by the student who fulfils his obligation would compensate for those who are unable to pay because of disability or other reasons.