

Alleged Non-Institution of Just Society

for future employment? I am disturbed because in the area I represent I do not know of a single job obtained through this Opportunities for Youth program. If there was one I should like to know about it. The expenditure on this program just for the purpose of cutting back the health resources fund and leaving the university complexes without the funds to train doctors who are in such short supply? Today people in Canada are dying because they cannot get proper medical attention. This situation has been put on the record. Is this really a just society? Are we really doing what is right, Mr. Speaker? Was it right to tax the people to the point where the fires of inflation were dampened, because that cost the Canadian people in 1970 alone, \$2 billion in goods not produced or sold. In addition, many people are being slowly destroyed because they had no work.

● (4:20 p.m.)

I am not pointing my finger in derision at the government. I know a young fellow who worked in a factory and who was sent to jail as a result of a small theft. He did not steal much. He was led astray by a group of young boys after he had worked for something like a year and a half in the factory. When he came out he could not get a job, and he came to see me. He wanted me to help him. I tried. I talked to the people at the Manpower Office; they tried, and they could not get him a job. He went back to where he had worked before, because he had a satisfactory work record there, and tried to get a job. They would not employ him because of his criminal record. Then, he went to the welfare people. This welfare program is run by the provincial government. They gave him welfare for one month and then cut him off. He came to my office again; I was not there but my secretary told me that he had said, "I just cannot make it; I cannot get a job. I seem to be a pariah. Nobody wants me." I am sorry to tell you, Mr. Speaker, that that man committed a crime yesterday and will be going back to jail. Not only must we bear the cost of keeping him in jail; we must also bear the cost of his young wife. Surely, this is not the sort of society we ought to be building in 1971.

I want to dwell for a minute on this brand new Opportunities for Youth program. Mr. Speaker, as I have said before, that program has not produced one job in the regional area I come from, and that includes an area outside of my riding. In this connection, may I quote something from yesterday's *Globe and Mail* editorial. It reads in part:

It is becoming rather dreadfully apparent that young people, Opposition Members of Parliament and editors should conserve their ammunition in dealing with the Opportunities for Youth program of Secretary of State Gérard Pelletier. The probability that heavy artillery will be absolutely necessary by the end of the summer suggests that only popguns be used now.

The prospect is that in a time of growing inflation, heavy unemployment and burdensome taxation, a good part of \$24.7-million of our tax money is going to be blown on badly assessed, ill organized, wasteful and nutty programs. The farce of the ages, it looks like, except that it is going to be hard to laugh heartily at \$24.7-million going down the drain.

[Mr. Rynard.]

I appeal to this House to help these young people. It is the duty of the opposition to bring problems to the attention of the government just as it is the duty of the government to formulate policy. We must do something to help the young people of Canada. We must face this problem of unemployment and this House ought to be prepared to do something about it.

[Translation]

Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton): Mr. Speaker, I am glad to have the opportunity to explain how we propose to reform our economy which is staggering from one depression into another.

Our economy at present rests on quicksands, and therefore there is no stability. Depressions, stagnation, unemployment, dissatisfaction, duties and taxes are the attributes of our economy. That is all we know. All the government does in the House in order to try to balance our economy works against the economy, because the more steps we take, the more depressions we have within the economy, the more our economy is upside down and the more Canadians are anxious and losing faith.

Since Confederation almost all faith in the economy has gone. Actually since Confederation, our economy has been doing well only in times of war. Furthermore, as it has been said by our leader, the hon. member for Témiscamingue (Mr. Caouette), our economy has never recovered its equilibrium.

We are consistently out of balance and the more we try with all sorts of economic formulas to restore this balance, the more the economy totters. A short while ago, the member for Hull (Mr. Isabelle) said that what we are advocating and trying to build, is nothing but a house of cards which will collapse at the slightest breeze. Well, the hon. member should surely apply his description to the kind of economic system that he himself is advocating.

The type of economy which he advocates might well suit him. Perhaps he does enjoy a guaranteed income. Indeed, I think his income is guaranteed because of his salary as a member of Parliament and of his profession which provides him with a most comfortable existence. His own way of life carries its own social credit. So he does not care about other people. He does not care about social awareness but only about individual awareness. His social awareness is explained thus: Me, my friends and the others. For him, everything ends after that.

● (4:30 p.m.)

That is the policy of the hon. member for Hull and that of many members of the older parties, because when you are sitting comfortably at home in an upholstered armchair, when you hold stock and receive all sorts of income, when the money you lend brings in a high return, you are happy and do not care about those who contribute to that. You just do not care about the taxes which have to be borne by others, or the trampling of the masses in order that you may live and allow your individual self to thrive, to endure and weather the storm.