

Mr. Brisco: The hon. member for Surrey-White Rock (Mr. Friesen) tells me not to hold my breath. How right he is. How deluded I was by this government and its economic policy!

The Minister of Manpower and Immigration sought the co-operation of members of parliament. He received mine. I spoke to groups in my riding and encouraged organizations to apply for funds. I told people about the program. Unfortunately I wasted my time, which could have been spent better in this House or elsewhere. I sought the co-operation of the people. They were enthusiastic. Even manpower officials were enthusiastic, as were students. After all, in my riding there is Selkirk College, a post-secondary institution with a large student enrolment, and Notre Dame University, also with a substantial student enrolment. Why should the students not have been pleased?

There were 38 applications for \$1,609,983, but the allocation under the Canada Works program for Kootenay West was \$153,000. There were 39 applications under the Young Canada Works program; the amount applied for was \$483,529. But the allocation for Kootenay West was the lowest in British Columbia, at \$66,000. Mr. Speaker, if that is not a classic example of Liberal pork barrelling, I do not know what it is.

Mr. Friesen: Yes. Basford got half a million.

Mr. Brisco: You bet he did. And so did all the other Liberals.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Order, please. Would the hon. member please refer to the minister by his title?

Mr. Brisco: I am sorry, Mr. Speaker. I was referring to that hon. gentleman from Vancouver. Can you imagine what a crushing disappointment this meagre funding was, what an insult it was? I appealed personally to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration, and told him his own officials in Kootenay West disputed his figures and disagreed with him. I approached him twice, personally, on this issue. What was the minister's response? What did he say? He said no. He shook his head. He did not care and does not care now. Mr. Speaker, he said no to the 2,000 unemployed in the Trail area, which has a population of 12,000; he said no to the 2,000 unemployed in the Nelson area, which has a population of 12,000. He gave us some \$66,000. If I could, I would hand the money back to the minister. He probably needs it more than we do.

Mr. Abbott: But you have it.

Mr. Brisco: Mr. Speaker, this government has weasled on the unemployed, on the young people in Kootenay West and across Canada.

Unemployment among those between the ages of 14 and 24 has been rising steadily since December, 1973. This process did not begin last year, or the year before. It began in December, 1973. The government has had ample notice. How much more notice do you want than four years? Can you not

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read your own figures? Are you blind? Are you deaf? Or do you not care?

Mr. Paproski: They do not care. They are heartless.

Mr. Brisco: Today young people between 14 and 24 make up 47 per cent of our unemployed.

Some hon. Members: Shame!

Mr. Nystrom: They will never vote Liberal again.

Mr. Brisco: Those young people are proud to be Canadians, are proud of their country; they want to work in their country and for their country. And what is the government doing for them? It has given my riding \$66,000. That is supposed to show the 2,000-plus students of my riding how willing the government is to help. Mr. Speaker, I would rather the government took a rest for four or five years. Let us stop these programs. Let us stop funding projects of this kind until we can introduce some permanent solutions. I would rather they stopped the LIP programs, the Canada Works and Young Canada Works programs, if only they could come up with long-term, permanent solutions.

Let me make some suggestions. I make them because, God knows, we often hear the government say that we criticize but we do not suggest alternatives. I see no reason why we cannot, even without provincial co-operation, undertake programs of training in trade schools and vocational schools, and upgrade some of the trade skills required by the labour market. That is my first point.

Second, I suggest that, as a nation, we should follow the example of Quebec. Let us provide funding for existing industry and new industry; let us provide a kind of accelerated DREE program which could be instrumental in taking the unemployed off the unemployed lists. Although in the past I have been unhappy at the amount of DREE funding going to Quebec, I must concede that the program in that province has succeeded well. The people of Quebec knew how to make it work, and they generated significant numbers of jobs. That option is open to the government, among countless others. I know that you will hear the NDP complain about money being given to private enterprise, to those capitalist rip-off artists. But they forget how much money is returned in taxes from the end product, in taxes from the employee and taxes from the employer. Those grants are returned a thousand-fold, but that never crosses the minds of those on my left.

Earlier today the Leader of the NDP (Mr. Broadbent) waxed eloquent about unemployment in Canada, and singled out that bastion of free enterprise, British Columbia, that province which has finally shaken off the mantle of socialism. He said unemployment in British Columbia is just terrible. Obviously he did not bother to look at the Statistics Canada figures, for they show that as of February 19, 1977, unemployment in British Columbia is down, by some 7,000 jobs, and that the province has the highest employment rate in Canada. I wonder what the NDP's answer to that is.