

### Supply

should obtain a degree or training. This is understandable; I have an unemployed youth in my own home who is trained and educated.

As of April there were 1,235,000 young people attending school full time. Over the next few months, if past experience is any guide, approximately 650,000 young people will attempt to enter the labour force, further magnifying and amplifying the problem. We are entering a new era, one that is totally different from what Canadians have had to face before. Rapidly changing technology, different labour laws and the development of a new philosophical working program surround us.

These changes require a great deal of planning, something which the Government opposite has totally neglected. Also they will require a great deal of understanding and a closer working relationship with our fellow Canadians. With this in mind, it is that much more important for them to have a functional education.

Why are we debating a non-confidence motion today regarding the Government's inability to cope with youth unemployment? The reasons are numerous. I should like to point some of them out in the House today. According to the Government, the current youth unemployment problem is based upon structural problems in the economy. The Liberals have said that we will never again see full employment. It is unadulterated hogwash that we will never see full or even close to full employment again. The structural economic problems to which the Liberals refer point to the mismanagement of the Liberal Government. Its structure for the last 16 years has caused these problems. Growth and jobs will come with good, sound management.

I would like to indicate how ludicrous is the approach of the Government to these problems. It claims that youth unemployment will disappear because the number of youths is declining. What will really happen is that youth unemployment will merely change category in Statistics Canada reports, but the problems will remain. Just the word "youth" will be removed. Yes, in two years or three years youth unemployment will decrease, but the problems will remain given the same administration.

● (1250)

Let me talk a little bit about the social stigma that unemployment brings to a community. The effects are not nice to talk about but it is time we started to recognize them. When people lose their jobs, or cannot get jobs, they lose their dignity. It is not only the families that suffers but entire communities. The riding of the Hon. Member for Fraser Valley East (Mr. Patterson) is directly south of mine. Reports are that we have up to 47 per cent unemployment in my riding. I have raised this matter in the House. Hopefully the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Roberts) will look at that area. That is an indication of the severity of the problem, as so aptly pointed out by the Hon. Member for Fraser Valley East.

Once someone is unemployed for a long period of time, studies show that it is harder to train and employ such an

individual. In Ontario, 20 per cent of those who are hard to employ eventually end up representing 50 per cent of the welfare costs.

Let me get down to the real social problems, problems I have seen as a peace officer in this country. Suicides among those between 15 to 24 have quadrupled since the 1940s. Of 4,000 suicides reported in 1981, 1,300 were teenagers. For each one carried out, there were 100 to 150 attempts. Alcohol consumption by those 13 to 20 years old sharply increased for both boys and girls. Frustrated by a society that appears to offer no future, no hope for the unemployed, they become depressed, despondent and eventually become addicted to drugs. That is the only alternative they see in the bleak window of life that has been caused by mismanagement. The only way out of this dilemma is to change the scene so that our youth can once again look to the future optimistically. They must be allowed to dream and hope must be restored. This can be done only by creating a country where they can develop job skills in trades or professions and become productive participants in this great country.

How did the Liberals attempt to deal with these problems? They first tried make-work programs that included no training. There was the Canada Works program. It was an attempt to delay the inevitable by taking tax dollars and throwing them in every direction. Now what do we hear from the Minister of Employment and Immigration? We should change our approach and start training with U.I. benefits. At last he is starting to listen to what we on this side of the House have been telling him. We must act now. We have a generation adrift.

The Government has been recycling people through its glorified welfare system, from UI to Canada Works. It is a vicious circle that does not go anywhere. I think the Government recognizes this. I went to look at some of the statistics with regard to these programs. In March, 1984 youth unemployment was just over 525,000, as pointed out by the Hon. Member for Elgin (Mr. Wise), a rate of 18.2 per cent. As the Hon. Member for Elgin pointed out, who knows the real figure? It could be as high as 1.4 million youth unemployed.

In 1983 the unemployment rate in Canada for young adults, those aged 20 to 24, was 18.5 per cent. This compared to 18.2 per cent in the United Kingdom, 14.6 per cent in Australia, 14.6 per cent in the United States, 7 per cent in Sweden and 4.1 per cent in Japan. Canada had the highest unemployment rate for young adults of any major western industrialized nation last year. The current rate is 17.1 per cent for both sexes, 19.6 per cent for young adult males.

The Hon. Member for Eglinton-Lawrence said that the Government had created jobs. With all due respect, they were short-term jobs. With all the respect in the world, there was no other way to go. I could see that with the policies it had. We spend about \$3.2 million per day trying to reduce unemployment through these programs.

Youth form 25 per cent of the workforce and about 30 per cent of the unemployed. We know that we are in trouble, real trouble. The pre-depression figures—and I use the word "depression"—for June, 1981 show youth unemployment at