

I was distressed to hear him say that he felt the Government was unable to do very much about youth unemployment. He advocated looking at futuristic conferences and planning for the world of tomorrow. All of which, of course, any thinking person would agree with. But has he not been involved in discussions within his own Party and the Government on matters affecting the country today? Unemployment is not a new phenomenon, nor is the information society of which he speaks now. I am distressed that the budget papers say that the existing tax structure in support of research and future jobs is complicated and somewhat arbitrary and falls well short of the Government's to target assistance. The budget papers then go on to advocate more planning, thinking and discussion.

Does the Hon. Member not believe that the discussion part should be well behind us now and that it is time for action? It is clearly known what the opportunities of the information age are for Canadians, and that it will take massive support, but at the same time it provides massive opportunity. I would like to know what specifically he advocates rather than just talking around the subject.

Mr. Frith: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member asks two questions. First he said that he is disappointed because I say that the youth unemployment level is going to remain high for the next two or three years. Let us say that someone asks you, right after the budget: what is this going to do for Canada's unemployed? The figures used show that in order to bring down effectively the unemployment rate in Canada from the present level of roughly 12.4 per cent to 10 per cent an additional stimulus of \$12 billion to \$13 billion to the economy would be needed. We clearly do not have that kind of manoeuvring room. The unemployment situation is a priority but, quite frankly, we cannot spend ourselves out of unemployment. That cost is far too high. When I say that, I do not want to create any false expectations among Canadian youths. The fact that we are placing this emphasis on increasing by some 25 per cent the amount of moneys put into youth employment programs this summer, does not necessarily mean that the problem will go away.

● (1730)

On behalf of many people on this side of the House I can say that we have been advocating research and development. I think the Government has listened, and Hon. Members opposite can argue that it has not listened well enough in terms of the Cabinet process. We should be putting far more money and emphasis on research and development. If we consider the commitment from the 1980 budget through to the 1983 budget, we find that there has been an increasing importance placed by the Government on the need to put more money into research and development. I could not agree more with Hon. Members of this institution. If I had my "druthers", I would place a tremendous amount of money into research and development because the spin-offs would ultimately do the largest amount of good with respect to unemployment four or five years down the road. If we do not put our money into research and development, we will not develop the leading

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technological edge and our share of the world market in the information system.

Mr. Walter McLean (Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, in participating in the debate today, I identify with the concern raised in the Opposition motion, the concern which focuses on the tragic implications of the economic policies of the Government which have resulted in 24 per cent unemployment amongst Canadian young people, and which deny reasonable job prospects to the 300,000 young Canadians graduating from post-secondary institutions this Spring.

Today I have had the opportunity to be in touch with universities in my constituency. During the weekend, while attending a reception for the retiring student president at the University of Waterloo, a young man said to me, "Mr. McLean, I want to come to your office because I want to find some work. I am not just concerned about work and payments, but I would appreciate it if you could help me find work where I can gain some work experience, even if I am paid very little or nothing. After completing three years of study, it is most upsetting to find that I have been somehow relegated to a position where I find myself without meaningful entry into the work force". He reflects what we as parliamentarians are hearing across the country, the concern on the part of many young people that somehow they are not a part of society, that they are expected somehow to sit and wait at the convenience of the Government or powers that be and may then enter, if things work out, into the life of Canada.

At the moment, the statistics before us present not only a serious economic but also a serious social question. I want to suggest that the Government, in focusing on employment measures, has not focused on the social implications and the potential unrest of our energetic young people. Second, it has almost totally ignored the sector of our society best equipped to engage these young people, to give them an apprenticeship, to give them some type of internship which would permit them then to enter into the life of Canada.

As we engage in this debate on April 26, we are faced with the fact that 40 per cent of the 1.6 million Canadians who are unemployed are young people. We have been told that in March there were 621,000 unemployed young people. As we know, young people comprise only 25 per cent of the labour force, yet in March. Statistics Canada reported that the overall unemployment rate for Canadians of all ages was 12.6 per cent. The percentage of unemployed young people is almost double the over-all percentage, reportedly 21.3 per cent.

Looking ahead through the fiscal year 1983-84, the Government suggests that it will spend \$260 million on youth employment measures. As we know, \$100 million was allocated to summer student employment schemes prior to the April 19 budget, and \$160 million was allocated as a result of the new budgetary measures. As we look at these studied estimates for the 1983-84 year, we find that expenditures on youth employment measures are to be as follows: the Summer Canada Employment Program, \$170 million; youth internships and job