

previous experience in a particular occupation or classification. It is a Catch-22 situation; how can a kid manage to get experience on the job when no employer will hire him because he has no experience? That probably has been the biggest failure of the government in the past. It has introduced so-called job creation measures and programs and brought them in under wage subsidy programs, which means that the government has subsidized employers to hire students or young people and split the wages, usually by 50 per cent. In an individual case the employer pays \$1.50, and the government matches that with another \$1.50. The experience under those programs is that the employer will exploit and take advantage of the young person for a period of, say, three to six months. Then the employer will simply get rid of the individual and hire another person so that he can take advantage of this wage subsidy program again. The first employer goes around and around. Nothing very positive happens to him, and programs like that certainly do not rectify a very bad and serious unemployment crisis.

There are other things unemployment statistics do not reflect. In other jurisdictions evidence of the long-term effects of extended periods of unemployment on the individual and on the family unit have been well documented. Unemployment statistics do not show increases in crime rates, family breakdowns, suicides and other hidden effects long-term unemployment has on the social fabric of the country, yet the evidence is there for anyone to see, and that evidence cries for the introduction of policies and programs to get us out of the mess in which we find ourselves.

What this government fails to realize is that the problems with which we are faced today did not begin overnight, and neither can they all be blamed on international influences. The problems we have today are the result of short-sighted and woolly-headed policies which have been followed by this government in particular over the past number of years, in spite of the fact that those policies were obviously wrong and not in the long-term best interests of the country or the vast majority of Canadians. This government has failed to deal with the most glaring of these problems, and that is the fundamental weakness in the structure of our economy. That weakness results from the uncontrolled domination of the manufacturing and resource sectors by foreign capital and our total lack of control over the exploitation of those vital sectors of our economy. This lack of control has resulted in the devastation of secondary manufacturing in Canada, as branch plant after branch plant has been closed. They have not been closed because many of them were not operating on a profitable basis but simply because decisions were made to supply the Canadian marketplace from other sources, usually the United States. In many cases we lost not only jobs but also the skills associated with them and the technology which developed and grew from the products which we produced. A perfect example of this is the electrical and electronics industry. It was not so long ago that that industry was a vibrant and expanding part of our economy. Just look at it today, particularly in the home entertainment field. Today we cannot go into a store and buy a Canadian-made radio, yet that particular industry employed upwards of 15,000 Canadians ten years

ago. We cannot go into a store today and buy a Canadian-made stereo system. Every stereo system we buy today is made offshore, yet that particular part of that industry employed upwards of 50,000 Canadians ten years ago. In the television manufacturing industry, I believe I am correct in saying, there is only one manufacturer left in the country, and he is in serious trouble and has either made the decision or is contemplating the decision to get out of that business, which would mean that in a few years it will be impossible to buy a Canadian-made television set.

In today's economy the importation of electronic products to a vibrant industrial economy is absolutely disgraceful and a terrible reflection of the mismanagement of our country's economy by this and previous governments. The reason for this happening was plain to everyone except the government. Those plants were constructed here simply to supply and exploit Canadian markets. Now that those markets are saturated with the goods these plants were built to produce, these plants are closing down and the manufactures will simply supply our needs from plants outside Canada. There is not a manufacturing sector which has managed to escape from this fact, whether it be in footwear, clothing, rubber, auto manufacturing or in countless other areas of secondary manufacturing in this country.

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What about the resource sector? This is an area which has been blatantly abused by successive governments for short-term gain, with little thought or consideration for present or future generations of Canadians. It has been said that this generation has no right to exploit those resources without giving consideration to the needs of future generations of Canadians, and I agree with that view. I would go further and contend that the reason we find ourselves debating this motion on youth unemployment today is the mismanagement of our resources yesterday and in past years.

I recognize I only have a few seconds of time left in which to speak.

Mr. Blais: Oh, go ahead.

Mr. Young: Hon. members are giving unanimous consent to allow me to continue, but I regret having to say that, by all indications, this government and other governments will continue with identical policies, despite all the evidence that they do not work and, in the long term, will be to the country's continuing detriment.

If this government had the political will to take action on this fundamental problem, we could very well be on the way to finding a resolution, not only to present day unemployment among our youth population, but also to resolve unemployment and the boom and bust cycles in our economy which have been a way of life for far too long. The government could do one thing and could do it very effectively, because the private sector is unable or refuses to do it at the present time. It is common knowledge that, for every job created in housing